WITH THE RIGHT TOUCH

JASON SEGEL & EMILY BLUNT HAVE CHARISMA TO BURN IN QUIRKY ROM-COM THE FIVE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT PAGE 21

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Grade 11 student Reuben Buerge sets out in his kayak from Vanier Park Thursday. Buerge and his John Oliver classmates are enrolled in the Take a Hike alternative-education program, which is now looking to expand across Canada. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Take a Hike to get back on track

At-risk youth. Program currently provides an alternative education for 40 students a year, with plans to expand

MATT KIELTYKA
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A Vancouver organization that prides itself on giving youth a boost is getting one itself.

The Take a Hike Youth at Risk Foundation has been working with the Vancouver School Board for the past 12 years to provide an alternative-education program at John Oliver Secondary School.

Forty students deemed at-risk are enrolled in the program each year, giving them an academic overhaul while connecting them with counselling and community programs, all under the umbrella of adventure-based learning.

"We can often be a last-resource school placement for them," said the foundation's president, Sonja Jensen.

"The students are leaving the program with confidence they didn't have before. They're breaking out of negative peer groups, which maybe got them in Take a Hike to begin with. Some are working through addiction issues or don't have the family support we're used to.

"We now have students that are involved in post-secondary and trade programs and they're building a life they didn't see possible before."

As part of their studies, students participate in weekly outdoor activities and embark on several 10-day adventure trips with the program's teachers and counsellors.

It's just what Grade 11 student Reuben Buerge needed to get his academic life back on track.

"I was failing most of my classes and I just wasn't motivated. I started attending the Take a Hike program, and everything has changed," he said. "I'm actually on the honour roll now, which I couldn't ever have believed a couple years ago. My whole mindset has changed."

The foundation's work has caught the eye of LIFT Philanthropy Partners, an offshoot of the Olympics' 2010 Legacies Now, which has decided to invest in a three-year venture project to bring Take a Hike into other British Columbian and Canadian school districts.

"They have a great track record. Looking at them, we felt it was the right time for them to expand across B.C. and into other parts of Canada," said LIFT CEO Bruce Dewar.

Take a Hike is currently in discussions with eight B.C. communities to establish local chapters, and Jensen said other Canadian cities have also shown an interest.

Mayors unite in pot fight

8 B.C. mayors call on Liberals to support the regulation and taxation of cannabis PAGE 4

A hideaway in Whistler

A hidden treehouse is discovered PAGE 6

Songs of mourning

Thousands take to streets in Norway to commemorate the 77 lives lost in massacre PAGE 12

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On the road again

Driving bans of 88 and 44 years doesn't stop bikers caught on stolen motorcycles

Being banned from driving for the next 88 years hasn't stopped one B.C. man from hitting the road.

The same is true for his pal, who'd been slapped with a 44-year driving ban.

The RCMP say the two were caught riding stolen motorcycles in Langley, B.C., on Tuesday and immediately arrested.

Sgt. Gord Elias says members of a specialized police auto crime unit spotted the pair on the Trans-Canada Highway east of Vancouver and tailed them to a gas station where they appeared to be selling drugs to a third person.

The men, aged 37 and 46 and both from the Metro Vancouver area, are now facing drug charges along with charges of possessing stolen property and driving while prohibited.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

$6M investment

Two new hospitals for the Island

Premier Christy Clark has announced two new hospital projects on Vancouver Island costing a total of $600 million.

The new Comox Valley Hospital to be built in Courtenay will have up to 153 beds and will replace the existing St. Joseph's General Hospital, which was built in 1937.

The new Campbell River and District General Hospital will be built at the existing hospital site in Campbell River with room for 95 beds.

Work on both hospitals is expected to begin next year and be complete by 2017. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tanya Martin turns on the outdoor tap across the street from her apartment building on Cameron Street in New Westminster. The building's tenants have been getting their water from this out-of-the-way location while living without running water for two weeks. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

New neglect claims against Sahota apt.

Run-down building. Tenants had been living without running water for two weeks

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Some tenants at a New Westminster Sahota-owned apartment building awoke Thursday morning to find their water was running and holes in their building walls had been patched.

The timing was noteworthy given that Thursday was the day that tenants and members of ACORN — the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now — had planned to hold a rally and a tour of the Cameron Street Waterford Developments property — a rally to express how upset they are with the condition of the run-down building.

"Who are we? ACORN! What do we want? Healthy homes! When do we want them? Now!" the group chanted.

Tenant John Dykema said they had been living for two weeks without running water, and he claims that the night before the media tour, workers came and fixed some of the building's problem areas.

"They were here Wednesday night until about midnight, fixing repairs, because they knew (the media) was coming," Dykema claims. "It's not as bad as it was (Wednesday) morning, but it's still bad in here."

The tenants pointed out what they claim were last-minute improvements — patched holes, newly painted areas, and units whose running water had been restored.

"Camping conditions are better than this," said Tanya Martin, who has been a tenant for five years.

She said the renters have been going back-and-forth to get water from an outside tap across the street.

Last month, landlord Gurdyal Singh Sahota and his Waterford Developments company was slapped with a $115,000 fine for failing to fix the leaky roof of units on a North Surrey apartment complex.

In 2007, the roof of East Vancouver's Pandora apartment collapsed and its former tenants awarded a $170,000 settlement.

Dykema said they want to sit down with the building owner and would like to see changes made.

"We have to come to a consensus that things will be done," he said. "If maintenance is done, they will have more tenants and they'll make more money."

1 NEWS

On the web

Erotic reading for men, too

Seems it's not just the ladies who are devoted to the erotic trilogy Fifty Shades of Grey. Men — young, old, gay and straight — have been devouring newcomer E L James' sexy series. Read the full story at metronews.ca

Teachers as the teasers?

Teachers south of the border have been caught hurling insults like "bastard," "tard," "damn dumb" and "hippo in a ballerina suit" at a special-needs student. Suspicious parents had armed their kids with audio recorders to figure out what was going on at school. Watch at metronews.ca

Mobile news

After two emergency landings in one week caused by birds flying into planes, a U.S. senator is asking for a solution that could solve the problem once and for all. Scan the code to read about the fatal goose roundup.

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Family of murdered Chilliwack man pleads for information

Few details released.
Parents don't know why their son was killed in his home

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The parents of a slain Chilliwack man say their "greatest wish" is for someone to come forward who could help them find those responsible for their son's death.

Karver Morford was found dead in his home in Ryder Lake — a small farming community 20 minutes away from downtown Chilliwack — on Nov. 8, 2010 by his dad, Jim, who went to visit his son to help him collect more firewood for the winter.

"I bent down and talked to him and kissed him. And I knew I had to call the police," Jim Morford said. "It burns a hole in your heart. It burns an image into your mind. It's tough to deal with."

Morford's mom Judy McCormick said she doesn't know why anyone would kill their son, who had struggled with epilepsy since his teens and had been living a secluded life in the small Chilliwack community for a year.

"We're sure that someone out there knows something about this heinous crime that took the life of our son and that person needs to do the right thing and get the burden of knowledge and guilt off of their chest into the hands of the (police)," she said.

Police have released little information about the case, even the cause of death, but Sgt. Jennifer Pound of the integrated homicide team said investigators have identified "persons of interest" in the case.

Pound added that this is also an "unusual" case because Karver Morford had no criminal record and wasn't connected to any criminal activity.

"Karver did live in an isolated area," she said. "This wasn't an area where there were a lot of people frequenting and neighbours aren't close. For that very reason, we believe that Karver was targeted."

Jim Morford and Judy McCormick, parents of slain Chilliwack man Karver Morford, make a public plea on Thursday afternoon for information into their son's death. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Mayors at odds with B.C. leaders over legalization of pot

A young man smokes a joint outside the Vancouver Art Gallery. KATE WEBB/METRO

Eight B.C. mayors are calling on the Liberal provincial government to support the regulation and taxation of cannabis in an effort to reduce crime associated with the marijuana trade.

The mayors, including Vancouver's Gregor Robertson, sent a letter Thursday to Premier Christy Clark and opposition party leaders urging them to support legalization.

"As mayors of B.C. municipalities, we are fully aware of the harms stemming from the province's large illegal-marijuana industry," the letter states. "Our communities have been deeply affected by the consequences of marijuana prohibition including large-scale grow-ops, increased organized crime and ongoing gang violence."

The letter doesn't seem to be gaining much traction with its recipients.

Premier Clark's spokeswoman said in an email the Liberal leader does not support legalization and has said many times it is a federal matter.

B.C. Conservative leader John Cummins is not in favour, either. He expressed concerns to Metro about potential trade problems with the U.S. if Canada were to legalize pot, and said he doubts taxing marijuana would take the trade away from criminals since it is "so easy to produce."

Speaking on the Bill Good show on CKNW Thursday morning, B.C. NDP Leader Adrian Dix said he supports decriminalization, but not legalization.

The mayors' letter endorses the stance of Stop of Violence BC, a coalition of academic, legal, law enforcement and health experts campaigning to reform cannabis laws in order to improve public safety and curb gang violence.

Vancouver Coun. Kerry Jang plans to put forward a motion on Tuesday calling on the city to officially endorse the Stop the Violence BC campaign. KATE WEBB/METRO/WITH FILES FROM TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mayors who signed on

- James Baker, Mayor Lake Country; Chris Pieper, Mayor of Armstrong; Robert Sawatzky, Mayor of Vernon; Howie Cyr, Mayor of Enderby; John Ranns, Mayor of Metchosin; Darrell Mussatto, Mayor City of North Vancouver; Derek Corrigan, Mayor of Burnaby; Gregor Robertson, Mayor of Vancouver

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Question of faith. UBC PhD releases study on the analytic mind, belief

Science and religion are often at odds, and the latest study from a University of British Columbia PhD student isn't likely to mend that rift anytime soon.

Will Gervais, in a study published in the journal Science on Friday, has found that thinking analytically actually makes people question their faith.

"Our goal was to explore the fundamental question of why people believe in a God to different degrees," Gervais, studying in UBC's department of psychology, is quoted in a media release put out by the school.

The research team found that "religious belief decreased when participants engaged in analytic tasks" — such as looking at Rodin's The Thinker sculpture or asking participants to complete questionnaires in hard-to-read fonts.

Gervais said the findings back up the long-standing notion that religious beliefs are tied to humans' "intuitive" system, which relies on mental shortcuts, rather than the "more deliberate, reasoned responses" of analytic thinking.

The study involved more than 650 participants in the U.S. and Canada. METRO

Goodbye, summer? B.C. legislation opens door for year-round schooling

Year-round school could be on the horizon in B.C. after the government brought in legislation to scrap the standard school-year calendar.

Education Minister George Abbott says the move takes effect in the 2013-14 school year will give school districts more flexibility to schedule classes as they see fit.

That could lead to schools in some districts being open year-round with scheduled breaks instead of the standard school year, which runs from September to June with the summer off. Abbott says his ministry will still set out a minimum number of teaching hours for students.

The legislation will also allow students in kindergarten to Grade 9 to take a mix of online-learning courses and traditional school courses, something that only students in Grades 10 to 12 have been able to do until now.

Abbott says personalized learning will put every student at the centre of their own education. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Supreme Court

Man charged as accessory to murder has bail reserved

A B.C. Supreme Court judge has reserved decision on bail for a man charged in relation to the murder of an 18-year-old woman in the North Okanagan town of Armstrong.

Fifty-eight-year-old Stephen Foerster is charged with being an accessory after the fact in the killing of Taylor Van Diest last Halloween.

The Cherryville man is also accused of obstructing justice. Judge Frank Cole heard the Crown and defence arguments for bail Thursday, and will render a decision May 14. Foerster's son, 26-year-old Matthew Foerster, is charged with first-degree murder in van Diest's killing.

He's also charged with sexual assault and unlawful confinement in 2005. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The HemLoft is a hidden treehouse built on a Whistler mountainside with materials found on Craigslist. CONTRIBUTED BY HEIDI HERMANSKI AND JOEL ALLEN

Whistler treehouse a geocacher's dream

The HemLoft. Hidden treehouse found on Crown land ... sort of

KATE WEBB
kate.webb@metronews.ca

The secret is out about an egg-shaped treehouse hidden on Crown land in Whistler — but that doesn't mean many people have actually seen it with their own eyes.

Social-media developer-turned-carpenter Joel Allen spent four years coming up with the design for his ideal hideaway, the HemLoft, finding the perfect spot for it on a precarious slope and building it out of free materials he scrounged up on Craigslist.

"When I built it, I was playing out a fantasy, in a certain sense," he said.

"I was basically making a dream come to life and I think ... now I'm making that dream somewhat accessible to other people."

Since going public with it on a website he built three weeks ago, he figures about 30 people have been able to triangulate its location based on clues on the website.

He keeps a guest book inside for those who do manage to reach the experimental orb, he explained.

"Everyone who's found it has vowed to keep it secret without me even saying anything because not only do they not want the world knowing about it, but also, if their friends want to find it, they want their friends to experience the same thrill that they experienced when they went looking."

Allen admits there is a good chance he will eventually be ordered to take it down as he doesn't own the land and it could pose a liability for the government.

A poll on his website asking people what he should do next has 77 per cent of nearly 10,000 people in favour of him buying the roughly nine square feet of land it's built on.

But that was meant as a joke, he said.

He knows that's next to impossible, and said he is fully prepared to take it down if authorities ask him to.

Quoted

"One of the reasons I'm not disclosing the location is because there's a certain amount of thrill in the hunt of finding something."

Joel Allen, social-media developer-turned carpenter

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HONDA

Evacuation alerts.
Floods loom in southern B.C. communities

A local state of emergency has been lifted in West Kelowna, after a creek in the Okanagan district breached a dike, while other areas in the southern and southeastern part of the province continue to deal with flooding.

Kirsten Jones with the District of West Kelowna said Thursday residents of six homes evacuated Wednesday night were being allowed to return to their property.

She said fire and rescue services, as well as operations staff, assessed the site near McDougall Creek and found there is no threat to public safety.

But Jones said the amount of rain coming down means the situation could change.

In the meantime, the Rotary Trials Park is being closed because of flooding.

Elsewhere, heavy rains, a cool spring and record snowpacks have created the potential for serious flooding.

In Kimberley, a public meeting was held Thursday morning to discuss flooding and the ongoing evacuation alert in one subdivision.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Delta police to investigate complaint

The Delta Police have been called in to investigate an incident in which a 15-year-old girl suffered a broken arm while being arrested by the Mounties in Prince Rupert. It happened on April 4 when police were called and told the girl wanted to kill herself. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Victoria cracks down on dealers

Victoria police are heralding the success of a six-week enforcement program in the city's downtown after the arrests of several drug dealers. Constable Michael Russell says police focused on one particular intersection (at Douglas and View streets), which has been a crime hub. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vij's No. 1 in Vacay.ca vote

Indian fusion.
Customers line up for 90 minutes to eat at the South Granville restaurant

Vij's has been named No. 1 out of 50 Canadian eateries in a survey by website Vacay.ca.

Vij's has come far from its beginnings in 1994. It was put up for sale during its early days after the first landlord complained about the smell of the cooking and it nearly shut down after only two months because of poor patronage.

Now customers line up for 90 minutes at the South Granville neighbourhood establishment to get a seat. And the owner's latest cookbook, Vij's at Home: Relax Honey, written with his wife Meeru Dhalwala tied for a silver award among English-language cookbooks in last year's Canadian Culinary Book Awards.

Also on the inaugural Vacay.ca Top 50 Restaurants in Canada List was Toronto's fourth-ranked The Black Hoof, known for its charcuterie plates that can include such fare as Lamb's Brains Ravioli and Horse's Heart.

Top 5

Here are the top five winners out of 50. For the complete list and to learn how the list was determined, visit vacay.ca.

1. **Vij's** Vancouver
2. **Langdon Hall** Cambridge, Ont.
3. **Joe Beef** Montreal
4. **The Black Hoof** Toronto
5. **Atelier** Ottawa

Toronto led all cities with 13 restaurants on the list while Vij's led Vancouver's 11 entries. Ontario and British Columbia each had 17 to lead selections by province on the list from the website, which spotlights vacation possibilities in Canada for visitors and domestic travellers.

"We created the Top 50 Restaurants in Canada List because we felt Canadian cuisine deserves to be celebrated. Plus, travellers need an authoritative source to make decisions on their dining choices when visiting different regions of the country."

He noted that the list covers everything from fine dining to neighbourhood budget options.

Judges included food writers, industry insiders and culinary aficionados from across the country. Votes from the general public were also included. The list was announced on Thursday with a countdown on Twitter. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vij's restaurant on South Granville. COURTESY OF VIJ'S

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Whoops

PMO likely shredded historical documents

The prime minister's mail room has lost some historical documents on sports, music and politics — and they appear to have been accidentally shredded.

The package of six documents, a gift, arrived in the facility last May. The envelope was date-stamped as being received but it got lost.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Military hearing

Once-happy son killed himself after tour: Mom

Sheila Fynes is telling a military complaints commission about her son, Cpl. Stuart Langridge, who killed himself in 2008 after returning from Afghanistan in 2005. Fynes says a boy who was once happy-go-lucky shut down after coming home.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Elderly beekeeper

Accused war criminal, 91, lives quietly in Quebec

A man alleged to be one of the world's most-wanted Nazi war criminals is living a quiet life keeping bees and selling honey in rural Quebec.

Vladimir Katriuk's name was recently added to the Simon Wiesenthal Centre's list of the world's 10 most-wanted suspected former Nazis. The married Ukrainian-Canadian of Ormstown, Que., won't discuss the allegations.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Michael Rafferty trial

Crown's case winds down

The car belonging to the man accused of killing Victoria Stafford was an assortment of poorly done or odd modifications. Those features can be seen in surveillance video from the day the girl was abducted, court heard Thursday in London, Ont.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harper to vote against motion from his own MP

Abortion debate. Conservative backbencher wants to set up committee to review Criminal Code language on fetuses

Prime Minister Stephen Harper says he'll vote against a motion introduced by one of his own MPs that has reignited the national abortion debate.

The Opposition and pro-choice advocates have criticized Harper for allowing debate on the motion.

Harper called the abortion motion from MP Stephen Woodworth unfortunate.

The motion would set up a committee of MPs to review the Criminal Code section that says a fetus does not become a human until birth is complete. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MP Stephen Woodworth rises on Thursday to start the debate on when human life begins. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Expenses

Oda has now repaid limo costs: Office

International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda has agreed to repay almost $3,000 she charged taxpayers for limousine service while staying at a posh hotel in London.

The beleaguered Conservative minister had already coughed up $1,353.81 in extra hotel charges after media reports that she upgraded to the five-star-plus Savoy Hotel for unknown reasons during a conference last June.

The conference on international immunizations was at another five-star hotel where Oda cancelled her cheaper room in favour of the tonier Savoy, more than two kilometres away.

A terse message from Oda's office said all costs that should not have been expensed have been repaid.

Oda's expensive tastes, including a $16 glass of orange juice at the Savoy, created a storm of controversy as the government is cutting overseas development funding.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MPP seeks to ban indoor tanning for under 18s

As a child, Kate Neale always wore hats and high-SPF sunscreen to protect her ultra-fair skin from the rays of the sun.

But at 16, wanting to emulate the bronze-skinned Hollywood stars with whom she'd become so enamoured, she started indoor tanning and quickly got hooked.

"I was tanning three to four times a week," said Neale of Belleville, Ont., who turned 22 on Thursday.

"It made me feel better about myself, and people were always complimenting me, saying, 'Oh you have such a nice tan.'"

Once she started toasting her body under the ultraviolet lights, it quickly became an addiction.

Five years later, what she thought was a freckle above her belly button was diagnosed as malignant melanoma, a potentially deadly skin cancer.

The proposed Skin Cancer Prevention act by Nickel Belt MPP France Gelinas, the NDP's health critic, seeks regulation of the industry.

If passed, the bill would require indoor tanning salons to adhere to strict marketing and promotion practices aimed at young clients, including posted health warnings and training for staff who operate the equipment.

"Tanning salons directly target youth through advertising in yearbooks and in schools before prom and graduation.," Gelinas said. "Not only do the salons either not know or play down the lifelong consequences of excess exposure to UV rays, they make tanning accessible."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Regulation of the industry

The proposed Skin Cancer Prevention Act by the NDP's health critic seeks regulation of the industry. If passed, the bill would require indoor tanning salons to adhere to strict marketing practices.

"Tanning salons directly target youth," Gelinas said.

This is the third time Gelinas has put forth prospective legislation on the topic.

Kate Neale with NDP health critic France Gelinas. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Blockbuster rulings. U.S. Supreme Court poised to release controversial decisions on health care, immigration

The U.S. Supreme Court, suddenly at the heart of presidential politics, is preparing what could be blockbuster rulings on health care and immigration shortly before the November election.

The court, sometimes an afterthought in presidential elections, is throwing a new element of uncertainty into the campaign taking shape between President Barack Obama and presumptive Republican nominee Mitt Romney.

Sharply divided between four conservatives, four liberals and one conservative-leaning swing justice, the court already is viewed as being nearly as partisan as Congress.

Within weeks it will rule on the contentious 2010 Democratic-crafted health-care overhaul and a Republican-backed Arizona law that's seen as a model for cracking down on illegal immigrants.

Obama sometimes seems to be running against the court, or at least its conservative members. Whether that will sway voters in November is unclear.

The public receives far less information and visual imagery of the Supreme Court than it does of the White House and Congress.

An anti-court strategy by Obama "will fire up his base, but I doubt it will make any bigger impact on swing voters," said consultant John Feehery. Strategists in both parties are hoping they can turn the upcoming decisions to their advantage.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Sierra Leone. Civil-war survivors celebrate warlord's conviction

Thousands of people who survived Sierra Leone's brutal civil war a decade ago celebrated Thursday after learning that Charles Taylor had been convicted for his role in the conflict that left behind countless amputees and traumatized former child soldiers.

Officials had set up special viewing sites for people to watch the verdict live as it was read from the Netherlands.

On Thursday, officials set up an area for several hundred residents of Tombodu to listen to the verdict live from the Netherlands, but they couldn't get a radio signal. Some villagers carrying transistor radios wandered hillsides trying to pick up a signal from the capital, Freetown. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Justice

"I am happy that the truth has come out ... that Charles Taylor is fully and solely responsible for the crimes committed against the people of Sierra Leone."

Jusu Jarka, survivor

Airport adventure

Puppy escapes onto LaGuardia runway

A puppy named Byrdie delayed several flights at New York's LaGuardia Airport when she escaped from her crate and ran around a busy runway.

The Port Authority says the dog was loose for about 10 minutes Wednesday while authorities unsuccessfully tried to catch her.

The agency says they had to find the dog's owner aboard the Memphis-bound Delta Airlines flight to help catch her. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sounding off through song

Some 40,000 people stand in the drizzling rain in Youngstorget Square in Oslo, Norway, on Thursday to participate in the singing of "Barn av Regnbuen" (Children of the Rainbow). KYRRE LIEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Norway. Thousands gather in public squares to commemorate those killed in massacre

They gathered by the tens of thousands, aiming to face down terror with the power of music.

Inspired by a Facebook-organized protest, Norwegians flocked to public squares across the country Thursday, ignored the drenching rain and lifted their voices in song.

Their target: far-right fanatic Anders Behring Breivik, now on trial for a bomb-and-shooting rampage that killed 77 people. Their weapon: a children's tune that he claims has been used to brainwash the country's youth into supporting immigration.

Defiant sing-alongs of Children of the Rainbow were staged in Oslo and other major Norwegian cities, while in court survivors of Breivik's attacks gave tearful testimony in the ninth day of his trial.

In downtown Oslo alone, some 40,000 people chimed in as Norwegian artist Lillebjoern Nilsen played the song — a Norwegian version of American folksinger Pete Seeger's My Rainbow Race.

In testimony last week, Breivik mentioned the tune as an example of how he believes cultural Marxists have infiltrated Norwegian schools and weakened its society.

Later, the crowd marched to the Oslo courthouse, where they laid a carpet of red and white roses on the steps and the fence.

Reached at home in Beacon, N.Y., the 92-year-old Seeger told The Associated Press he had heard about the mass gathering from Nilsen, who called him Thursday morning.

"I said, 'Oh, that's wonderful,'" Seeger said. "It's a tremendous honour, really. One of the greatest honours a songwriter could have is to have a song of theirs sung in another country."

Shocked by Breivik's lack of remorse for the massacre, Norwegians by and large have decided the best way to confront him is by demonstrating their commitment to everything he loathes. Instead of raging against the gunman, they have manifested their support for tolerance and democracy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Power of music

Those gathered sang the Norwegian lyrics:

"A sky full of stars, blue seas as far as you can see. An earth where flowers grow, can you wish for more? Together shall we live, every sister, brother. Young children of the rainbow, a fertile land."

Israel's leaders mark 64 years of independence

An Israeli man with a flag on his shirt waves to Israeli air force acrobat planes over the Mediterranean sea. ARIEL SCHALIT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel's leaders marked their country's 64th year of independence on Thursday with a ceremony in Jerusalem, singing classical Hebrew songs and honouring outstanding soldiers.

"Israel does not threaten its region, does not seek to rule another people, and does not wish ill for any other nation," President Shimon Peres said. "Israel, despite its strength, prefers bridges of peace over fences of hostility."

Israelis flocked to beaches and thronged parks for barbecues across the nation, filling the air with the scent of grilled meat and charcoal. Military bases were open to visitors for the holiday. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was scheduled to award the Israel Prize in the evening, a prestigious honour in the fields of entertainment and academia.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton congratulated Israel.

"For many around the world, Israel remains a beacon of hope and an inspiring example," she said Wednesday in an official statement.

Government statistics showed that Israel's population grew by 137,500 since last year to 7,881,000.

The Central Bureau of Statistics said 75 per cent of the population is Jewish, 21 per cent is Arab, with the remainder belonging to tiny minorities or immigrants who are not Jewish. Also, more than 500,000 Israeli citizens live as settlers in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, areas Palestinians claim for their future state. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

64 years free

"Israel does not threaten its region, does not seek to rule another people, and does not wish ill for any other nation."

Israeli President Shimon Peres

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Paying homage to the victims of Chornobyl

A woman lights candles in Kyiv to honour the memory of the victims of the Chornobyl disaster on Thursday. Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych on Thursday paid tribute to the victims on the 26th anniversary of the world's worst nuclear disaster, saying his country is committed to building a new, safer shelter over the reactor.

SERGEI CHUZAVKOV|THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pakistan PM serves token detention after contempt conviction

Symbolic sentence.
Court decision touches off political turmoil for a regime already rocked by security and economic problems

Riot policemen stand guard, as a supporter of Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, centre, shouts slogans in Gilani's support in Islamabad, Pakistan, Thursday. MUHAMMED MUHEISEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pakistan's Supreme Court convicted the prime minister of contempt on Thursday but handed him a symbolic sentence of less than a minute's detention, allowing him to leave the building surrounded by cheering supporters and still in power.

The ruling against Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani triggered renewed political turmoil and could lead to his dismissal in the coming months.

The tensions risk consuming a government already burdened with major economic and security challenges.

The latest twist in a long-running saga came as an American envoy arrived in the country to kick-start negotiations over Washington's broken but vital alliance with Pakistan.

Gilani was charged with contempt for his refusal to pursue a long, dormant corruption case against his political master, President Asif Ali Zardari. The court could have sent him to prison for six months and ordered his immediate dismissal from office, but appeared to blink first in what has been a bruising standoff.

The parliamentary speaker and election commission must now decide whether the conviction is reason to dismiss Gilani as a lawmaker, and hence as prime minister, a procedure that could take up to four months.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Newspaper targeted

Deadly terrorist attacks hit Nigeria

A suicide bomber and a man armed with explosives attacked two Nigerian newspaper offices on Thursday, killing seven people and wounding at least 26. The radical Islamic sect Boko Haram claimed responsibility.

In Abuja, the suicide bomber rammed his car through the gates of the ThisDay office and drove into the reception area before the explosion, which killed at least three people.

A separate attack in Kaduna, at an office shared by three newspapers, also included a car loaded with explosives and killed four.

Another bomb exploded late Thursday afternoon on the outskirts of Kaduna, causing unknown injuries, police said.

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Media allegations widen Secret Service sex scandal

Internal probe. New reports of impropriety in El Salvador come hours after security head says Colombia misconduct appeared to be isolated incident

Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa), the Senate judiciary committee's ranking member, listens to testimony from Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano in Washington, D.C., on Thursday. SUSAN WALSH |THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Secret Service acknowledged Thursday it is investigating whether its employees hired strippers and prostitutes in advance of President Barack Obama's visit last year to El Salvador. The disclosure came hours after the Homeland Security secretary assured skeptical senators that a separate prostitution scandal in Colombia appeared to be an isolated incident.

A spokesman for the Secret Service, Edwin Donovan, said the agency was investigating allegations raised in news reports about unprofessional behaviour that have emerged in the aftermath of the prostitution scandal in Colombia. The latest, by Seattle television station KIRO-TV, quoted anonymous sources as saying that Secret Service employees received sexual favours from strippers at a club in San Salvador and took prostitutes to their hotel rooms ahead of Obama's visit there in March 2011.

Prostitution is legal in both Colombia and El Salvador.

Separately, The Washington Post earlier this week cited unnamed "confidants" of the Secret Service officers implicated in the Colombia scandal saying senior managers tolerated similar behaviour during official trips.

It described a visit to Buenos Aires in 2009 by former president Bill Clinton, whose protective detail it said included agents and uniformed officers. During that trip, the Post said, members of the detail went out for a late night of partying at strip clubs.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said he doubted that President Barack Obama was aware of the allegations from El Salvador when he was briefed by Secret Service director Mark Sullivan last week in the Oval Office.

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Heywood wasn't a spy: U.K. foreign secretary

Britain. Death of China-linked businessman remains a mystery; investigation continues

Britain's Foreign Secretary William Hague took the unusual step of publicly insisting Thursday, that a U.K. businessman who died in suspicious circumstances in China was not working as a British spy.

In a letter to Parliament's Foreign Affairs Select Committee, Hague said he was breaking conventions which usually prevent ministers from commenting on the identities of intelligence officials amid continuing speculation around the mysterious death of Neil Heywood, whose body was found Nov. 15 at a mountaintop hotel in the southwestern city of Chongqing.

Heywood had close ties to Bo Xilai, a Chinese political high-flier whose career has been derailed by the death. Bo was removed as Chongqing's Party Secretary on March 15 and has been suspended as a Politburo member amid questions over whether he tried to abuse his power to quash an investigation into his wife and a household employee over the Briton's death.

Though authorities in China initially had said Heywood died from either excess drinking or a heart attack, they have since opened a new investigation and named Bo's wife Gu Kailai as a suspect. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quotable

"Given the intense interest in this case, it is exceptionally appropriate for me to confirm that Mr. Heywood was not an employee of the British government in any capacity."

British Foreign Secretary William Hague

Jailhouse rock

Inmates of Tihar jail, the largest complex of prisons in South Asia, dance as a band plays music during a musical evening for its inmates in New Delhi on Thursday. SAURABH DAS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A real snore

Boring, meet dull

That's what happened when two small towns, one in Oregon and the other in Scotland, decided to become sister communities. The idea came from a Scottish tourist, Elizabeth Leighton, who travelled this year through the Oregon town named after homesteader William H. Boring. Officials in the Oregon town plan to sell T-shirts that say "Boring and Dull." Boring has a population of 8,000. Dull has a population of 84. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brazil

Prostitute set to sue U.S. Embassy

A Brazilian prostitute plans to sue the U.S. Embassy, three Marines, an American staff member and one of the Embassy's Brazilian drivers for injuries caused when she allegedly was pushed out of a van in Brasilia, her attorney said Thursday.
Attorney Cezar Britto said by telephone that Romilda Aparecida Ferreira will sue for injuries, medical expenses and lost income. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saudi Arabia. Bin Laden's widows deported

Pakistani authorities deported Osama bin Laden's three widows and his children to Saudi Arabia early Friday, less than a week before the first anniversary of the unilateral American raid that killed the al-Qaida leader in his hideout in a military town.

The departure of the family closed another chapter in an affair that cemented Pakistan's reputation as a hub of Islamist extremism and cast doubt on its trustworthiness as a Western ally. In February, authorities bulldozed the large compound where bin Laden had lived in the northwestern garrison town of Abbottabad.

The U.S. commandos took bin Laden's body, which they later buried at sea, but left his family behind. His wives and children were detained by Pakistani authorities immediately after the predawn raid on May 2, 2011.

Two of the widows are from Saudi Arabia, and the third is from Yemen.

They were interrogated by Pakistani intelligence agents and eventually charged last month with illegally entering and living in the country. The three wives and two adult daughters were convicted and sentenced to 45 days in prison. Their prison term, which was spent at a well-guarded house in Islamabad, ended earlier this month. Soon after midnight Thursday, a van took the women and children from the house in the centre of the capital, Islamabad, en route to the airport. Officials covered the vehicle with sheets to prevent photographers from taking their pictures.

A statement from the Interior Ministry said 14 members of the bin Laden family had been deported to the "country of their choice, Saudi Arabia." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Levon Helm. Fans visit singer's home to bid adieu

By the busload, hundreds of friends and fans of Levon Helm travelled to his home Thursday to say goodbye to the influential singer and drummer for The Band, who died of cancer last week.

The public memorial was held at the Woodstock barn where Helm held his Saturday night Midnight Ramble concerts in New York's Hudson Valley. His closed casket was surrounded by flowers and flanked by his drum kit and a piano.

Friends, neighbours and fans filed silently past the coffin, which was on the second floor of the barn and set against a backdrop of a family photo slideshow. Nearby, family members greeted visitors.

Mourners — a crowd of mostly middle-aged people with a smattering of aging hippies and a few young people — were quietly encouraged to keep the line moving. Some carried flowers, and a few pressed handkerchiefs to their faces.

Levon Helm appears on the new Imus in the Morning program. RICHARD DREW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"He was an icon but also the guy next door," said Al Caron of Woodstock as he waited outside the Woodstock Playhouse for one of the yellow school buses ferrying people to Helm's nearby home-studio. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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America's Justin Dowd wins Race for Space

Metro winner. Physics student from Boston beats thousands for ticket to outer space

Justin Dowd from Worcester, Mass., has won the Race for Space, the global competition to select one Metro reader to travel into space.

Dowd beat candidates from across the globe to win the coveted once-in-a-lifetime ticket on board the XCOR Lynx, a first-generation, rocket-powered spaceplane currently being built by spaceflight company SXC (Space Expedition Curaçao).

Dowd has both the mental and physical strength needed to be a perfect astronaut. Dowd, 22, a physics and maths undergraduate at Northeastern University, wowed the judging panel with his stunning chalkboard stop-motion video on Einstein's theory of relativity. Aside from his studies, Dowd is currently training for a grueling 19-kilometre endurance obstacle-course race.

"My motivation for him is that he really provides an amazing package in the combined qualities of scientific background, artistic qualities, dedication and the gift to tell a fascinating story," said Harry Van Hulten, test pilot with SXC and global jury member that selected Dowd.

"He is absolutely unique. He taught me things in his video that I didn't understand as well as I do now. He really blew me away with that. I can't think of any better ambassador to tell the story about this space trip than him."

Dowd will receive astronaut training ahead of the trip scheduled for 2014. The "civilian astronaut" will be able to chronicle his preparations and space flight in a series of reports published in Metro across the globe.

"I have dreamt of going to space since starlight first streamed into my telescope," Dowd said. "My instinctive desire to see the Earth from above connects to a fundamental human yearning. Curiosity drives us to hurdle into the unknown for a chance of learning a deeper truth about our world." METRO WORLD NEWS

Northeastern University student Justin Dowd's dreams of space are about to come true. NICOLAUS CZARNECK/METRO

Quoted

"It's pretty awesome.... This is just the beginning!"
Justin Dowd

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740 East Broadway
My Convenience Store:
450 West Hastings St

Afghan attack. American fatally shot by man dressed in Afghan army uniform

A man wearing an Afghan army uniform fatally shot an American service member in southern Afghanistan, officials said Thursday, the latest in a string of attacks against U.S. and other foreign forces by their Afghan partners or insurgents in disguise.

Since the beginning of the year, there have been at least 16 such attacks against American and other international troops. The U.S.-led coalition is trying to mentor and strengthen Afghan security forces so they can lead the fight against the Taliban and foreign troops can go home by the end of 2014. That mission, however, requires a measure of trust that has been repeatedly undermined by the deaths of coalition troops at the hands of their Afghan partners.

In one of the highest-profile attacks, a man working as a driver at the Afghan Interior Ministry shot dead two U.S. military advisers at close range in March. That incident alone led the U.S. military to temporarily pull all its advisers out of Afghan ministries.

Similar attacks

- Since 2007, more than 80 NATO service members have been killed by Afghan security forces, according to an Associated Press tally, which is based on Pentagon figures released in February.

U.S.-Afghan ties have also been under strain following the Qur'an burnings at a U.S. base and the alleged killing spree by an American soldier in the south in recent months. Relations appeared to be shifting back on track with Washington and Kabul agreeing to a long-awaited deal earlier this week on a strategic pact to govern the U.S. presence in Afghanistan till 2024.

The latest attack took place late Wednesday when the shooter turned his weapon on coalition troops and opened fire, the U.S. military said in a statement. International forces returned fire, killing the assailant, the statement said without providing further details. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An anti-Syrian regime protester with Arabic script on her hands (reading "Free Syria") and face ("Freedom"), attends a protest in Idlib, north Syria, on Wednesday. EDLIB NEWS NETWORK ENN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syrian regime, rebels trade blame for blast

Explosion. Opposition group says cause of the destruction was not immediately clear

UN observers on Thursday inspected the site of an explosion that flattened a block of houses in the central Syrian city of Hama and killed at least 16 people, while the government and the opposition traded blame over the cause of the blast.

Syrian state-run media said rebel bomb-makers accidentally set off the explosives. Anti-regime activists said intense shelling by government forces caused the extensive damage. It was impossible to independently verify the conflicting accounts because President Bashar Assad's regime, facing a 13-month-old uprising, has restricted access for journalists and other outside witnesses.

The spokesman for UN special envoy Kofi Annan, Ahmad Fawzi, said observers visited the site but he didn't have immediate word on what they saw.

Two UN observers are stationed in Hama, part of an advance team of 15 monitors who are visiting hot spots to try to salvage a cease-fire that is part of a peace plan aimed at ending the violence and bringing the two sides to the negotiating table. The observer team is to be expanded in the coming weeks to up to 300.

Amateur videos said to be of Wednesday's blasts in Hama showed a large cloud of white and yellow smoke rising from a neighbourhood surrounded by green fields. In a later video, dozens of people searched through the debris, including huge chunks of cement and broken cinder blocks. Another clip shows the bloodied body of a little girl being carried through a crowd of wailing men.

The state-run Syrian news agency SANA said rebels mishandling explosives triggered a blast that killed at least 16 people and severely damaged at least six houses.

The Local Coordination Committees, a network of activists, denied that and said it was intense shelling from government tanks that caused the damage. The group put the death toll as high as 70, but that estimate was not confirmed by others. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iraq

Shiite cleric, Kurdish leader tackle political deadlock

Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, left, shakes hands with Kurdish President Massoud Barzani, right, upon his arrival in Irbil, Iraq. KHALID MOHAMMED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two political leaders who put Iraq's prime minister in power met Thursday to discuss if they should withdraw their support, now that a bitter sectarian political deadlock has even led to calls for secession.

Hardline anti-U.S. Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr flew to Iraq's northern Kurdish region, in what was billed as a historic visit, to meet with its president over how to end the months-long political impasse.

The mini-summit underlined the explosiveness of Iraq in the wake of the U.S. military pullout in December, marked by bloody attacks and the political stalemate, both sectarian in nature.

Speaking to reporters at the airport in Irbil, the capital of the Kurdish region, al-Sadr pointedly avoided blaming Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki personally for letting the Shiite-led government sideline Kurds and Sunnis, as his critics accuse. But the cleric demanded inclusiveness in Iraq's politics, because "divisiveness is not good for the people." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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392

Tories table tighter CMHC oversight

Stress tests. With household debt rising, government-backed mortgage oversight increases

The federal government is increasing oversight on the issuing of government-backed mortgages in Canada, while also putting more of the risk for lending on the banks.

As previously signalled in the budget, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty tabled changes Thursday that will place Canada's Mortgage and Housing Corp. under the control of the federal financial regulator.

Flaherty said CMHC has become a significant financial-sector player in Canada, and it was appropriate that it meet the high standards of soundness demanded by the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions.

"I've been concerned about CMHC for some time. In this sense, it's become an important financial institution in Canada and it was not subject to the same supervision" as banks, he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Minor tweaks

TD Bank chief economist Craig Alexander called the changes "appropriate" and minor "tweaks" to Canada's financial regulations, particularly compared to the major overhaul occurring in the United States.

- "This isn't going to make a big difference to either the real-estate market or Canadians," Alexander said. "Banks will continue to offer covered bonds, but they just won't be able to use CMHC-insured products in those bonds."

Vespa unveiled in India

Models pose with a Vespa scooter during its launch in Mumbai, India, on Thursday. The Italian company hopes to carve out a market for luxury scooters in one of the most cost-conscious markets in the world. The Vespa LX will cost around $1,282 US in India — a 40 per cent premium to most scooters, but still the lowest sticker price in the world. RAFIQ MAQBOOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Supreme Court. Appeal involving new carrier Wind Mobile denied

A two-year legal battle that centred on whether new wireless carrier Wind Mobile was Canadian-owned and controlled when it entered the market was put to an end Thursday by the Supreme Court of Canada.

The high court decided it will not hear an appeal of a Federal Court decision involving Wind Mobile, meaning it's business as usual for the wireless carrier and its roughly 400,000 customers.

Rival wireless company Public Mobile had argued rules for Canadian ownership and control had not been applied to Wind Mobile and wanted the Supreme Court to hear the case.

As usual, the high court did not give reasons for refusing to hear the appeal.

"The two-year-long, silly battle brought by our competitor is finally over and we've won," Wind Mobile chairman Anthony Lacavera said.

Wind Mobile was one of several new entrants into the mobile-phone market in Canada following a wireless-spectrum auction in 2008.

Its major backer was an Egyptian telecom company. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"I think they should stop complaining and start competing."

Anthony Lacavera, Wind Mobile chairman

Market Minute

DOLLAR 101.63¢ (-0.05¢)

Natural gas: $2.036 (-3¢)
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KIM AND KANYE, A MATCH MADE IN ... HOLLYWOOD

THE LIST
Neil Morton
Metro

1 Bachelor Canada reveal. The Canadian version of The Bachelor franchise debuts this fall, and next Tuesday, May 1, the first ever Canuck bachelor will be revealed. They are dropping daily hints at BachelorCanada.ca about who the lucky guy will be. Here's your main hint: It's not me. I am taken. I know — you're all devastated.

2 The Windsor Hum. A mysterious, low-frequency rumble dubbed the Windsor Hum has been annoying the heck out of people in Windsor, Ont., for the past couple of years. Apparently, it originates from an industrial site in Michigan, and even our feds are now investigating. There's a @TheWindsorHum account on Twitter. Minus that hum noise.

3 Triple play. The Toronto Blue Jays turned a triple play in a 4-3 win over Kansas City, their first since 1979. Though it was really their first since 1992, if you count the terrible missed call in Game 3 of the World Series when Kelly Gruber clearly tagged an Atlanta Braves base runner before he reached base. Same thing happened to me in a T-ball game in 1978.

4 Will and Kate's first anniversary. The world's most famous couple is celebrating their first anniversary this Sunday. Can you believe nearly 365 days have passed since two billion people watched the royal wedding!? Before you know it, WillKat will be celebrating 10 years of marriage with their three kids, two pets and 1.5 cars. In their palace.

5 They grow up fast. A father from the Netherlands filmed his daughter every week from birth up until age 12, and posted a time-lapse video of her growth, called Portrait of Lotte, on Vimeo. It has gone viral, and said dad has totally raised the daddy bar. Message to soon-to-be dads: Get your video cameras ready. You have a lot of filming to do.

6 Ron Artest. He changed his name to Metta World Peace but the L.A. Laker should consider changing it back to Ron Artest or Metta World Chaos after the absolutely vicious elbow he threw at Oklahoma City's James Harden in a game on Sunday. The reputation he worked so hard to restore after that incident in 2004 where he climbed into the stands and started a brawl with fans at the Palace of Auburn Hills, Mich. ? Gone.

7 Kim Kardashian and Kanye West. If you were to put two of the most self-indulgent, conceited, narcissistic people together in the ultimate exercise in match-making egocentrism, you would get this couple. And it has happened. They are an item. But this might not work. See, they are both in love with someone else. Themselves.

8 Ford's weigh-in cancelled. Toronto Mayor Rob Ford, who began his Cut the Waist challenge in January, hoping to lose 50 pounds by June, keeps cancelling his weekly weigh-ins. For the third time in a month, he didn't show up. Either he "chickened out" or was too busy trimming budgets rather than himself.

9 Red Hot Chili Peppers. Next week, they'll release We Salute You, an EP of classic covers to celebrate their recent induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, including covers of previous inductees like the Ramones and Neil Young. Doubt Axl Rose would ever do such a thing. He refused to be inducted with his band, Guns N' Roses. (Un)sweet child.

They grow up fast. Watch young Lotte go from baby to pre-teen in the video at metronews.ca/voices/metrotube-of-the-day. VIMEO

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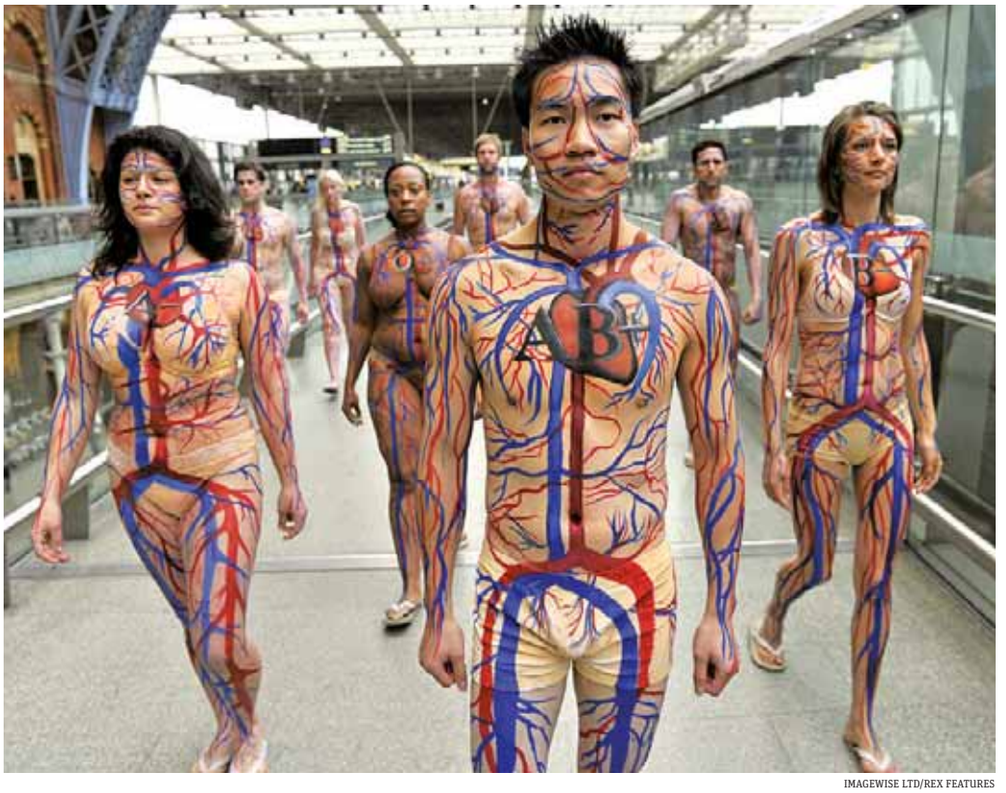

IMAGEWISE LTD/REX FEATURES

Body art

U.K. needs more blood this year

LONDON. It's what you can call 'body art-ery.' Donors from each of the four main blood groups are painted with vessels to raise awareness of the need for donors of all blood types. Britain's National Health Service says it needs 30 per cent more blood than normal during the Diamond Jubilee and Olympic Games. **METRO**

Running low

Public events affect donations

REASONS. The increase is needed because of the high number of events in Britain this year. Past experience shows that donors miss appointments during national celebrations as routines are disrupted. This, combined with foreign visitors with a different blood mix, may also put a high demand on specific blood groups. **METRO**

Donation 101

- After donating, blood is broken up into different parts in a centrifuge machine; red blood cells are then separated from liquid plasma.
- 65 per cent of all blood donations are made in developed countries, home to just 25 per cent of the world's population.

Every unit counts

7,000

extra units of blood (each approximately half a litre) is what hospitals in England and North Wales need every day to deal with medical demands. Each unit saves or improves the lives of three patients.

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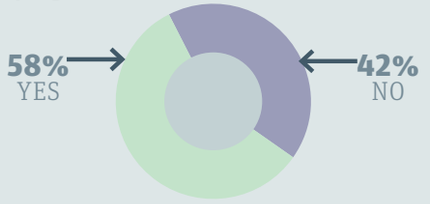
Have you ever been a victim of workplace bullying?



Twitter

@adam_ent: "@CoachsCornerCBC: I wouldn't blame Luongo if he wants out of VAN. He's been the biggest escape goat of all time." can't spell, but SO right

@HomerMcFanboy: My day is complete. @CoachsCornerCBC just called Roberto Luongo "the biggest escape goat of all time," which is amazing on so many levels.

@StephanieZD: "although, the image in my head of Cherry's tweet involves Luongo, in his gear, getting driven out of Vancouver on a goat" #LoveIt

@p_evans: Escaped goats are a menace MT @CoachsCornerCBC I wouldnt blame Luongo if he wants out of VAN He's been the biggest escape goat of all time.

@mirtle: This goat is going to escape. RT @CoachsCornerCBC: I wouldn't blame Luongo if he wants out. He's been the biggest escape goat of all time.

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Jason Segel and Emily Blunt have a long wait before their nuptials in The Five-Year Engagement. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Waiting for a wedding

The Five-Year Engagement.

Rom-com driven by its charming and charismatic coupling

Richard: Mark, somewhere etched on a stone tablet are the Rules of Rom-Coms™. All romantic comedies, it seems, must have an unlikely couple meet, fall in love, hit an obstacle and then reconcile just before the credits roll. Five-Year Engagement is no different, but shakes up the formula with some dark comedy — frostbite, anyone? — and two leads with charm and charisma to burn.

Mark: Normally I would appreciate the dark touches in a movie like this, but instead I found they wrecked the comic tone. That tone, incidentally, was also compromised by an uneven script that was just too long and repetitive. I have nothing but praise for the actors, though. I cared about the two leads, and without them there would be no picture, but it was all the wonderful comic turns by some of my favourite character-savvy comedians that made the film. My favourite? Brian Posehn, from the Sarah Silverman Show. Yours, Richard?

RC: I agree with you to a point. I liked the darker touches because they helped separate this from the run-of-the-mill rom-com. Having said that, they also weigh down the midsection of the movie. Luckily this isn't Kristen Bell, or worse yet, Katherine Heigl and any other Standard Romantic Male Lead™, but Blunt and Segel. They are the engine that keeps the movie moving forward. They are helped not only by Posehn, but also Community's Alison Brie, who is a scene-stealer. Watching her and Blunt have a grown-up conversation in Muppet voices is worth the long running time.

MB: Almost, but not quite. The five-year engagement should not feel like it's spooling out in real time. The Muppet scene is priceless. So is Segal's desperate and exhausted sex scene with his younger girlfriend. And if it's dark comedy you like, look no further than Segal's brunch with his parents toward the end of the movie. There is indeed much to admire and enjoy in this movie. But all the jokes that involved life in small-town Michigan seemed worn, as did the restaurant scenes. The university researchers made me laugh, mostly due to Kevin Hart, Mindy Kaling and Randall Park. But see? Too much going on here!

RC: It could have used some trimming, but for me it succeeds not because it follows Rules of Rom-Coms™ but because it doesn't.

MB: And the liberal use of Van Morrison tunes nudges this one over into the plus column for me.

Synopsis

Jason Segel is Tom, a San Francisco chef engaged to his girlfriend Violet (Emily Blunt). The quirky couple — they go to parties dressed as Princess Diana and Super Bunny — are a perfect match, but circumstance is getting in the way of the wedding plans. First Violet's sister Suzie (Alison Brie) preempts her sister's big day by getting pregnant and planning a shotgun wedding. Then psychology student Violet accepts a place in a two-year graduate program at the University of Michigan, once again placing a speed bump in the way of their walk down the aisle.

- Richard: ●●●○○
- Mark: ●●○○○

2

SCENE

Scene in brief

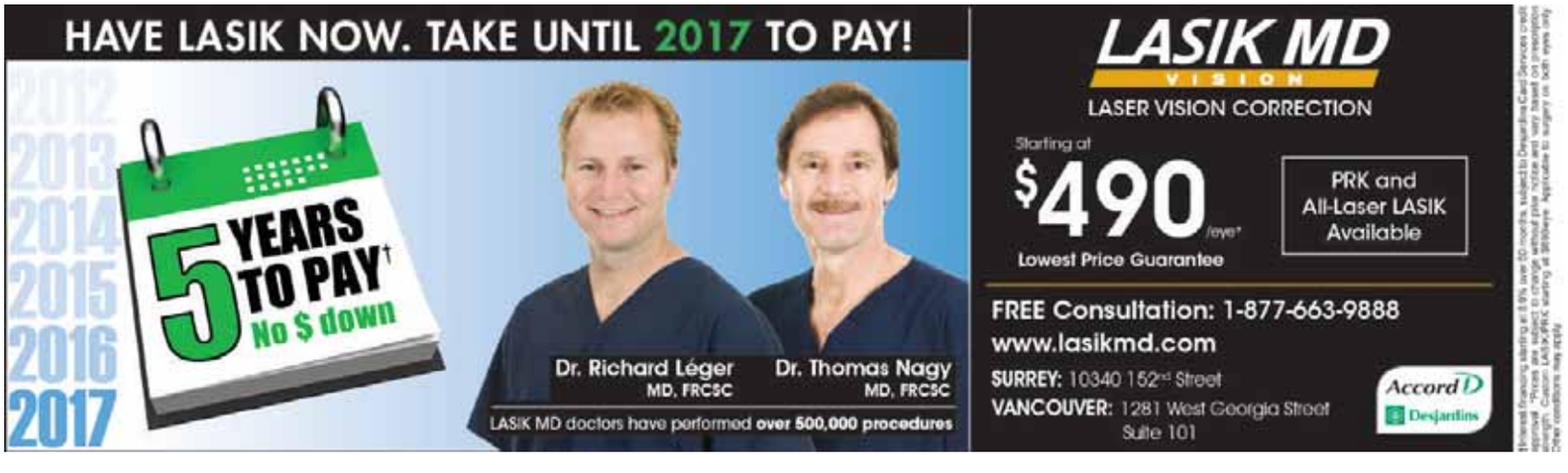
Houston sparkles

Cee Lo Green, Mike Epps and Jordin Sparks help Whitney Houston return to the big screen for the last time in the girl-group movie Sparkle. Houston served as executive producer of the movie, which had already finished filming in Detroit when she died in Beverly Hills on Feb. 11 at age 48. A brief preview Wednesday night at the CinemaCon conference in Las Vegas featured Houston's trademark dazzling smile as she danced in a living room in celebration. The remake of the 1976 movie stars Houston as the mother of three girls who form a singing group and struggle with fame and drug addiction. The movie, scheduled for release in August, was seen as a comeback vehicle for the superstar.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Spidey's rogues' gallery to rattle new The Amazing Spider-Man game



Action

Safe

Director. Boaz Yakim

Stars. Jason Statham, Catherine Chan

While Jason Statham has shown acting skill, the British star's one-note script choices — like playing a former crooked cop seeking redemption by saving a mathematically-gifted young girl from the mob — does little to advance his typecasting. Plus, plenty of up-close frenzied fight scenes only muddle what's an already formulaic action-thriller. If he keeps turning out movies like Safe, Statham will surely end up as this generation's Chuck Norris.

STEVE GOW

Comedy

The Pirates! Band of Misfits

Director. Peter Lord

Stars. Hugh Grant, David Tennant

Another fantastic stop-motion comedy from filmmaker Peter Lord (Chicken Run), The Pirates! tells the tale of a band of bumbling buccaneers trying to upgrade their captain's award status from "best anecdote of a squid" to the Pirate of the Year despite his sheer incompetence. With plenty of clever visual gags (too many for just one viewing) and witty detail, Lord delivers a triumphant treasure chest for audiences of every age.

STEVE GOW

Thriller

The Raven

Director. James McTeigue

Stars. John Cusack, Alice Eve

Taking the meta-film stance that an ever melancholy, alcohol-fuelled Edgar Poe might have been embroiled in a real-life serial killer case with his own work as the key is a pleasingly post-modern device. And while director James (V for Vendetta) McTeigue's film never really rises to the wild heights that premise promises, it's still an entertaining, handsomely designed yarn well told, undermined somewhat by a meat-and-potatoes script and some weak supporting casting. But John Cusack, finally playing his age, is fantastic.

CHRIS ALEXANDER

Drama

The Lady

Director. Luc Besson

Stars. Michelle Yeoh, David Thewlis

Biopics are a tricky tightrope to walk, especially when the subject is still living and their cause still a going concern. The film chronicles Burmese democracy activist Aung San Suu Kyi's political awakening as an adult living in England, flipping back and forth between historical markers and the strain her decisions put on her husband and two children. David Thewlis is fantastic as her long-suffering and supportive husband Michael Aris, and their scenes together prove to be the film's heart and soul. **IAN GORMELY**

Drama

Warriors of the Rainbow: Seediq Bale

Director. Wei Te-Sheng

Stars. Masanobu Andô, Lin Ching-Tai

Shortlisted for the Best Foreign Language Academy Award last year, Warriors of the Rainbow: Seediq Bale has Oscar bait written all over it — an oppressed people embrace their traditions and fight back against an industrial colonial power. In this case, it's the Seediq aboriginal people of Taiwan squaring off against Imperial Japan. But director Wei Te-Sheng gives us more than the David vs. Goliath type of narrative.

IAN GORMELY

Drama

The Forgiveness of Blood

Director. Joshua Marston

Stars. Tristan Halilaj, Sindi Lacej

There's no denying that American Joshua Marston skillfully captures the clash of cultural mores of Albanian blood feuds in The Forgiveness of Blood. However, this tale about a family confined to their property for fear of reprisal after the patriarch kills someone suffers from its own story's state of stagnation. While authenticity helps sell the drama, Forgiveness still can't match the tension of Marston's previous hit, Maria Full of Grace.

STEVE GOW

Heather Ogden and McGee Maddox of the National Ballet of Canada in Romeo and Juliet
Photo: Bruce Zinger
Photo: Cristiana Woerns
Photo: Angelo Barsetti
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Drama

Snow

Director. Rohan Fernando

Stars. Kalista Zackhariyas, Ria Mae, Mohan Fernando

When Parvati (Zackhariyas) loses her family in the 2004 tsunami, the 24-year-old Sri Lankan is forced to start a new life in Canada. Haunted by her loss, Parvati struggles to move forward in a strange country with relatives she's never met. Though this new family insists that she is "home", Parvati must discover a sense of place on her own. Parvati slowly floats through her new life in Canada, but her experiences feel disconnected and the characters she meets are never fully developed.

REGAN REID

Quoted

The Big Easy.

"This father is doing everything he can to just keep things going, keep electricity going, to keep this little baby going...

"My little girl means the whole world to me. I really want to believe that if I was placed in the same situation that I would rise above, that I would be able to see it through the end and do what it would take to make sure my baby came out on top."

Actor Paul Walker on playing a father struggling to keep his newborn daughter alive in a New Orleans hospital ravaged by Hurricane Katrina in the suspense drama, Hours, which started production recently in

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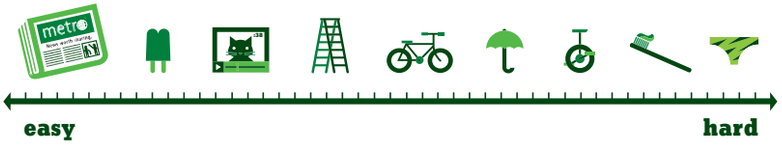

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Avengers assemble! The stars talk about getting in character

Teaming up. It takes a lot to balance superpowers and share the spotlight with a bunch of other big names

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

It's all been leading up to this: Four years after Iron Man — with The Incredible Hulk, Iron Man 2, Thor and Captain America in between — The Avengers assembles Marvel's team of superheroes into the summer's most jam-packed blockbuster.

Written and directed by Buffy creator Joss Whedon, the film finds our heroes united, trading barbs while battling Loki, the superbaddie from Thor. We asked each member to reflect on the making of the film, and check in with some of the supporting cast, too.

Captain America Chris Evans on his role in the team:
I give all these orders. It's like, 'Hulk, you do this impossible thing. Thor, you bottleneck a portal, and Iron Man, you fly over here — and I'll take the stairs' (laughs).

But who would Evans trade places with if he could?
See, I want to say Iron Man because I love those movies. But who can do it better, you know what I mean? You think the shoes would be too big to fill.

Thor Chris Hemsworth on being a graceful Norse god:
I have one [fight] scene where I was on the wire — because I hadn't learned to fly yet — and I was supposed to come down and land on a cliff. I was supposed to land, step and have a conversation. The first couple of takes, I just face-planted into the dirt. Very ungraceful and un-superhero-like.

Chris Hemsworth, left, struggled with learning the grace of a god.

Mark Ruffalo on taking on the mantle of The Incredible Hulk character (he's the third actor to play this role in a decade):
It was terrifying. I knew what my responsibility was, or I felt it just by making the mistake of going online and reading some of the fanboy responses to the announcement that I was playing the next version of Bruce Banner. And that was a mistake. I will never do that again. But I never had a role more scrutinized and criticized before I even shot a single frame.

Iron Man Robert Downey Jr. on not going it alone anymore:
I remember I would get nervous about [the idea of pairing up the superheroes] and excited about it and doubtful of it. By the time Chris and Chris had launched their individual franchises with success and charisma, and by the time we had Mark, I was like, wow. So just being a worker among workers is kind of where I started out and it was nice to not have to really have to carry a movie. And everyone was really, really, really equal in this venture.

Hawkeye Jeremy Renner on how surreal it was to assemble the team for the first time:
I think it's just getting all of the actors in one room all in costume — it was like Halloween. I was friends with them as humans, and now they're dressed up like silly people. When everybody was together, that was the most memorable. And creepy and funny. Getting to play with Thor's hammer while he stroked my bow. Oh here we go, that's going to be great. That's going to get me in trouble.

Nick Fury Samuel L. Jackson on being the straight man (unsurprisingly, he didn't love it):
I kept wanting to say [to Thor], 'I don't come your world to blow s— up,' but they won't let me say it!

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The Artist (G) Sat-Thu 2:15
Breakfast on Pluto (STC) Wed 7
Footnote (G) Sat-Thu 4:30
The Iron Lady (PG) Sat-Thu 12
No Films Showing Today (STC) Fri
Wanderlust (14A) Sat-Tue 7 Thu 7
We Need to Talk About Kevin (14A) Sat-Thu 9

Dunbar Theatre 4555 Dunbar Street, 604-222-2991

American Reunion (18A) Fri-Wed 9:45
The Hunger Games (PG) Fri-Thu 7
Marvel's the Avengers (STC) Thu 11:59
Mirror Mirror (PG) Sat-Sun 2-4:15
Fifth Avenue Cinemas
2110 Burrard Street, 604-734-7469
The Deep Blue Sea (PG) Fri-Thu 1:45-7:15
The Hunger Games (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:50-6:50-9:45
The Hunter (PG) Fri-Thu 4:45-9:15
The Lady (STC) Fri-Thu 1:15-4-7-9:40
The Magnificent Seven (STC) A.M. Sat 10
The Pirates! Band of Misfits (G) Fri-Thu 2-4:15-6:30-8:30
Salmon Fishing in the Yemen (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:10-9:20

Granville 855 Granville St., 604-684-4000

Comic-Con Episode IV: A Fan's Hope (PG) Fri 6:55-9:40 Sat-Sun 4:15-6:55-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:35-8:15
Hard Core Logo II (14A) Fri 9:30 Sat-Sun 4:25-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:55-8:30
The Lorax (STC) Fri 6:50-9:10 Sat-Sun 4:20-6:50-9:10 Mon-Thu 5:45-8:25
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG) Fri 6:35-9:20 Sat-Sun 3:55-6:35-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:25-8:05
Monty Python and the Holy Grail (STC) Fri 7
Safe House (PG) Sun 4-6:30-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:20
A Separation (G) Sub-Titled Fri 6:45-9:25 Sub-Titled Sat-Sun 4:10-6:45-9:25 Sub-Titled Mon-Thu 5:30-8:10
Snow (STC) Fri 6:35-9:35 Sat-Sun 4:05-6:35-9:35 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:35

Hollywood Theatre 3123 W. Broadway, 604-738-3211 hollywoodtheatre.ca

Oakridge 650 West 41st Ave., 604-263-1944

Pacific Cinémathèque 1131 Howe Street, 604-688-3456 cinematheque.bc.ca

The Long Day Closes (STC) Fri 6:30 Sat 8:15 Sun 3:30 Mon 8:15 Thu 6:30
Nightwatching (18A) Fri 8:15 Sat 3:30 Sun 5:30 Wed-Thu 8:15
No Films Showing Today (STC) Tue
Of Time and the City (STC) Mon 6:30 Thu 8:15
Rembrandt's J'Accuse (18A) Sat 6:30 Sun 8:15 Wed 6:30

Park Theatre 3440 Cambie Street, 604-876-2747

The Lucky One (PG) Fri 7-9:05 Sat-Sun 2-4-7-9:05 Mon-Thu 7-9:05
Marvel's the Avengers (STC) Thu 12
The Metropolitan Opera: Manon Encore (STC) A.M. Sat 9

Ridge Theatre 3131 Arbutus Street, 604-738-6311

The Five-Year Engagement (14A) Fri 4-7-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:15-4-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:30

Rio on Broadway 1660 E. Broadway, 604-878-Film riotheatre.ca

I Am Tim (STC) Sat 11:30
No Films Showing Today (STC) Fri Sun-Thu

Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver 900 Burrard St., 604-630-1407

21 Jump Street (14A) Fri-Sat 12:10-2:50-5:35-8:15-10:50 Sun 12-2:40-5:15-7:50-10:25 Mon-Thu 1:50-4:30-7:20-10
American Reunion (18A) Fri-Sat 12-2:40-5:20-8:20-11 Sun-Thu 1:15-4-7-9:50
The Bright Stream: Bolshoi Ballet - Live (STC) Sun 1
The Cabin in the Woods (18A) Fri 1:05-3:30-5:50-8:25-10:55 Sat 10:45-1:05-3:30-5:50-8:25-10:55 Sun 12:40-3:10-5:40-8:05-10:35 Mon-Thu 12:50-3:10-5:40-8:05-10:30
Gladiator (18A) Mon 7
The Hunger Games (PG) Fri-Sat 12:20-12:45-3:35-4:10-6:50-7:30-10-10:45 Sun 12:45-3:35-4:10-6:50-7:30-10-10:45 Mon 12:45-1-3:50-4-7:10-10:15 Tue-Thu 12:45-2:10-3:50-5:15-7:10-8:30-10:15
The Lucky One (PG) Fri 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:25 Sat 2:45-5:15-7:45-10:25 Sun 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:25 Mon-Thu 2-4:35-7:15-9:45
Marvel's the Avengers 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 12:01
Metropolitan Opera: Manon Lescaut - Encore (STC) Sat 9
Safe (14A) Fri 1-3:20-5:45-8:10-10:45 Sat 10:30-1-3:20-5:45-8:10-10:45 Sun 1-3:20-5:45-8:10-10:45 Mon-Wed 12:50-3:10-5:30-8-10:25 Thu 2:10-4:30-7-9:30
Titanic 3D (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-4:45-8:45
Wrath of the Titans 3D (14A) Fri 1-3:25-6-8:30-11 Sat 10:15-1-3:25-6-8:30-11 Sun 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Mon-Tue 2:20-5-7:30-9:55 Wed-Thu 1:30-3:55-10:30

Vancity Theatre Vancouver International Film Centre 1181 Seymour Street, 604-683-Film vifc.org

The Company of Wolves (STC) Tue 7:30
The Forgiveness of Blood (STC) Fri 6:30-8:45 Sat-Mon 6:30 Wed 6:30 Thu 1
Head (STC) Mon 8:45
Road to Nowhere (STC) Sat 8:35 Sun 4-8:35 Wed 8:35

North Shore Esplanade 6 200 West Esplanade, 604-983-2762

American Reunion (18A) Fri 6:30-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:25-3:55-6:30-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:20
Mirror Mirror (PG) Fri 6:35-9 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:45-6:35-9 Mon-Thu 6:35-9
The Pirates! Band of Misfits (G) Sat-Sun 1:20
The Pirates! Band of Misfits 3D (G) Fri 7-9:25 Sat-Sun 3:35-7-9:25 Mon-Thu 7-9:25
Safe (14A) Fri 7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-3:50-7:10-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:30
The Three Stooges (PG) Fri 6:45-9:10 Sat-Sun 1-3:20-6:45-9:10 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:10
Wrath of the Titans (14A) Fri 6:50-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:40 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:15 Sat-Sun 4-6:50-9:15

Park & Tilford 333 Brooksbank Ave., 604-985-3911

Chimpanzee (G) Fri 7:10-9:10 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:15-5:15-7:10-9:10 Mon-Thu 7-9
The Five-Year Engagement (14A) No Passes Fri 6:50-9:40 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-6:50-9:40 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:40-9:10 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
The Hunger Games (PG) Fri 7-10 Sat-Sun 1-4-7-10 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:30
The Lucky One (PG) Fri 6:30-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:20-3:50-6:30-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:20
Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Metropolitan Opera: Manon Lescaut - Encore (STC) Sat 9
The Raven (18A) Fri 7:20-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:20-7:20-9:50 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:40
Titanic 3D (14A) Fri 7:20 Sat-Sun 1:05-5-9 Mon-Tue 7:20 Thu 7:20

Richmond

SilverCity Riverport 14211 Entertainment Way, 604-272-7280

21 Jump Street (14A) Fri 1:30-4:25-7:25-10:15 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:25-7:30-10:15 Mon-Thu 1:30-4:25-7:25-10:15
American Reunion (18A) Fri-Thu 12:35-4-7:40-10:25
The Bright Stream: Bolshoi Ballet - Live (STC) Sun 1
The Cabin in the Woods (18A) Fri-Tue 2-4:40-7:20-10:05 Wed 7:20 Thu 2-4:40-7:20-10:05 Wed 2-4:40-10:35
Chimpanzee (G) Fri-Wed 12:05-2:15-4:30-6:45-9 Thu 4:30-6:45-9 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
China Heavyweight - A Hot Docs Live Presentation (STC) Wed 6
The Five-Year Engagement (14A) No Passes Fri-Wed 1:45-4:35-7:30-10:30 No Passes Thu 4:35-7:30-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
The Hunger Games (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-6:40-9:55
The Hunger Games: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Wed 4-7:15-10:30 Thu 12-3-6-9
Indie Game: The Movie - A Hot Docs Live Presentation (STC) Thu 6
Lockout (14A) Fri-Sat 1:20-4:10-7:05-9:40 Sun 7:05-9:40 Mon-Thu 1:20-4:10-7:05-9:40
The Lucky One (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:15-6:55-10
Madagascar (G) Sat 11
Marvel's the Avengers 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 12:01
Marvel's the Avengers: An IMAX 3D Experience (STC) No Passes Thu 12:01
Metropolitan Opera: Manon Lescaut - Encore (STC) Sat 9
Mirror Mirror (PG) Fri-Sat 12:40-3:35-6:30-9:30 Sun 12:40-3:35-10:20 Mon-Thu 12:40-3:35-6:30-9:30
The Pirates! Band of Misfits (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:30-4
The Pirates! Band of Misfits 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-2:30-5-7:30-10
The Raven (18A) Fri-Wed 1:15-4:35-7:30-10:35 Thu 12:15-3:15-6:30-9:15
Safe (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:20-7:35-10:20
A Simple Life (STC) Fri-Thu 12:55-4:05-7:10-10:10
Think Like a Man (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:55-7:15-10:30
The Three Stooges (PG) Fri-Tue 1-3:50-6:55-9:50 Wed 1-3:30-9:50 Thu 1-3:50-9:50
Titanic 3D (14A) Fri-Thu 3:30-7:45
Titanic: An IMAX 3D Experience (14A) Fri-Wed 12
Warriors of the Rainbow: Seediq Bale (18A) Fri-Wed 12-3:25-7-10:25 Thu 12-3:25-7-10:30
Wrath of the Titans 3D (14A) Fri-Tue 12:50-3:45-6:50-9:45 Wed 12:50-3:45-9:45 Thu 12:50-3:45-10:35
WWE Extreme Rules - 2012 (STC) Sun 5

Burnaby

Dolphin Cinemas 4555 E. Hastings St., 604-293-0332

21 Jump Street (14A) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 2:50-7 Mon-Thu 7
American Reunion (18A) Fri-Thu 9:05
Mirror Mirror (PG) Fri 4:55 Sat-Sun 12:50-4:55 Mon-Thu 4:55
The Pirates! Band of Misfits (G) No Passes Fri 5-6:50-8:40 No Passes Sat-Sun 1-3-5-6:50-8:40 No Passes Mon-Thu 5-6:50-8:40
SilverCity Metropolis
4700 Kingsway Ave., 604-435-7474
21 Jump Street (14A) Fri-Sat 12:05-2:40-5:15-7:55-10:40 Sun 12:05-7:55-10:40 Mon-Tue 2-4:50-7:35-10:20 Wed-Thu 12:50-3:25-10:20
The Cabin in the Woods (18A) Fri-Sun 1-3:20-5:45-8:10-10:35 Mon-Wed 1-3:15-5:40-8:05-10:30 Thu 1:30-4:15-6:50-9:15
Chimpanzee (G) Fri-Sun 12-2:05-4:15-6:25-8:35-10:40 Mon-Thu 12:55-3-5:15-7:25-9:35
China Heavyweight - A Hot Docs Live Presentation (STC) Wed 6
The Five-Year Engagement (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 2-4:55-7:50-10:45 No Passes Mon-Wed 1:30-4:25-7:20-10:15 No Passes Thu 12:45-3:30-6:15-9
The Hunger Games (PG) Fri-Sat 12:40-4-7:20-10:35 Sun 12:40-4-7:40-10:35 Mon-Thu 1-4-7:15-10:30
Indie Game: The Movie - A Hot Docs Live Presentation (STC) Thu 6
The Lucky One (PG) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:45 Mon-Thu 12:45-3:05-5:35-8-10:30
Madagascar (G) Sat 11
Marvel's the Avengers 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 12:01
The Pirates! Band of Misfits (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:45
The Pirates! Band of Misfits 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Wed 3-5:15-7:30-9:45 No Passes Thu 3-7:10-10:30
Safe (14A) Fri-Sun 1-3:20-5:45-8:10-10:35 Mon-Thu 1-3:20-5:45-8:10-10:30
Titanic 3D (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-4:45-8:45
Wrath of the Titans 3D (14A) Fri-Sat 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Sun 12:15-2:45-5:15-10:45 Mon-Wed 1:45-4:30-7:20-9:45 Thu 1:45-4:30-9:30
WWE Extreme Rules - 2012 (STC) Sun 5

Station Square 220-6200 McKay Ave., 604-434-7711

American Reunion (18A) Fri 4:25-7:20-9:55 Sat 1:45-4:25-7:20-9:55 Sun 1:45-4:25-7:20 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:20
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) Fri 4:15-6:50 Sat 1:35-4:15-6:50 Sun 1:35-4:15 Mon-Thu 4:15
John Carter (PG) Fri-Sat 9:25 Sun-Thu 6:50
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (G) Fri 4:45-7:15 Sat 2-4:45-7:15 Sun 2-4:45 Mon-Thu 4:45
Mirror Mirror (PG) Fri 4:30-7-9:35 Sat 1:50-4:30-7-9:35 Sun 1:50-4:30-7 Mon-Thu 4:30-7
The Raid: Redemption (18A) Fri-Sat 9:40 Sun-Thu 7:15
The Raven (18A) Fri 4:35-7:10-9:50 Sat 1:40-4:35-7:10-9:50 Sun 1:40-4:35-7:10 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:10
A Simple Life (STC) Fri 4:20-7:05-9:45 Sat 1:35-4:20-7:05-9:45 Sun 1:35-4:20-7:05 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:20
The Three Stooges (PG) Fri 4:40-6:55-9:30 Sat 1:55-4:40-6:55-9:30 Sun 1:55-4:40-6:55 Mon-Thu 4:40-6:55

New West/ Coquitlam

SilverCity Coquitlam 170 Schoolhouse Street, 604-523-2911

21 Jump Street (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:10-7-10
American Reunion (18A) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:25-6:30-9:20
The Bright Stream: Bolshoi Ballet - Live (STC) Sun 1
The Cabin in the Woods (18A) Fri-Thu 2-4:40-7:45-10:15 Fri-Sun 1:45-4:15-7:15-9:40 Mon 4:15-7:15-9:40 Tue 1:45-4:15-7:15-9:40 Wed-Thu 4:15-7:15-9:40
Chimpanzee (G) Fri-Tue 12:55-3:10-5:20-7:40-9:45 Wed 3:10-5:20-7:40-9:45 Thu 12:55-3:10-5:20-7:40-9:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
China Heavyweight - A Hot Docs Live Presentation (STC) Wed 6
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) Fri-Thu 1:25
The Five-Year Engagement (14A) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:40-3:40-6:45-9:50 No Passes Wed 3:40-6:45-9:50 No Passes Thu 12:40-3:40-6:45-9:50 No Passes Fri-Sun 1-4-7-10:15 No Passes Mon 4-7-10:15 No Passes Tue 1-4-7-10:15 No Passes Wed-Thu 4-7-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
The Hunger Games (PG) Fri-Sat 12:30-3:45-7:10-10:20 Sun 3:45-7:10-10:20 Mon-Thu 12:30-3:45-7:10-10:20 Fri-Sun 12:10-3:20-6:40-10 Mon 3:20-6:40-10 Tue 12:10-3:20-6:40-10 Wed-Thu 3:20-6:40-10
Indie Game: The Movie - A Hot Docs Live Presentation (STC) Thu 6
Lockout (14A) Fri-Tue 7:55-10:40 Wed-Thu 10:40
The Lucky One (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4-7:50-10:30 Fri-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:40-10:30 Mon 4:30-7:40-10:30 Tue 1:30-4:30-7:40-10:30 Wed-Thu 4:30-7:40-10:30
Madagascar (G) Sat 11
Marvel's the Avengers 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 12:01
Metropolitan Opera: Manon Lescaut - Encore (STC) Sat 9
Mirror Mirror (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:15-6:55
My Way (14A) Fri-Thu 9:40
The Pirates! Band of Misfits (G) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:15-2:30-4:45 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:15-2:30
The Pirates! Band of Misfits 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:45-3:15-5:40-8-10:15
The Raven (18A) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:30-7:30-10:10 Fri-Sun 2-5-8-10:45 Mon 5-8-10:45 Tue 2-5-8-10:45 Wed-Thu 5-8-10:45
Safe (14A) Fri-Wed 1-3:30-5:50-8:20-10:40 Thu 1:45-4:30-7-9:30
Think Like a Man (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:25
Titanic 3D (14A) Fri-Sat 12:50-5-9 Sun 12 Mon-Thu 12:50-5-9
Wrath of the Titans (14A) Fri-Thu 4:05-6:50-9:30
WWE Extreme Rules - 2012 (STC) Sun 5

Surrey/White Rock/Langley Clova 5732-176th St., Surrey, 604-541-9527

American Reunion (18A) Fri-Thu 7
Goon (18A) Fri-Thu 9:05
Mirror Mirror (PG) Sat-Sun 1:30
Hollywood 3 Cinema
7125-138th Street, Surrey,
604-592-4441
21 Jump Street (14A) Fri 6:50 Sat-Sun 2:20-6:50 Mon-Thu 6:50
The Descendants (PG) Fri-Thu 9
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) No Passes Fri 4:45-6:30 No Passes Sat-Sun 1-2:50-4:45-6:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:45-6:30
John Carter (PG) Fri-Thu 4:25-8:55
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (G) Sat-Sun 12:30
Mirror Mirror (PG) Fri 5-7 Sat-Sun 1-3-5-7 Mon-Thu 5-7
Wrath of the Titans (14A) Fri-Thu 8:15

Strawberry Hill Grande 12161-72nd Ave, Surrey, 604-501-9400

American Reunion (18A) Fri-Thu 2:35-5:15-7:50-10:25
The Cabin in the Woods (18A) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:20-5:40-8:10-10:30
Chimpanzee (G) Fri-Sun 12:40-4-6-8:05-10:15 Mon 1:55-4-6-8:05-10:15 Tue 12:40-4-6-8:05-10:15 Wed-Thu 1:55-4-6-8:05-10:15
The Five-Year Engagement (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 2-4:55-7:45-10:45 No Passes Mon 2-4:55-7:45-10:35 No Passes Tue 2-4:55-7:45-10:45 No Passes Wed 4:55-7:45-10:35 No Passes Thu 2-4:55-7:45-10:35 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Housefull 2 (PG) Fri-Sat 1:30-5:30-9:30 Sun 12:35-9:30 Mon-Thu 1:30-5:30-9:30
The Hunger Games (PG) Fri 12:50-4:20-7:35-10:35 Sat 1:05-4:20-7:35-10:35 Sun 12:50-4:20-7:35-10:35 Mon 1:15-4:20-7:35-10:30 Tue 12:50-4:20-7:35-10:35 Wed-Thu 1:15-4:20-7:35-10:30
The Lucky One (PG) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:15-5:45-8-10:20 Mon 12:55-3:15-5:45-8-10:20 Tue 12:45-3:15-5:45-8-10:20 Wed 3:15-5:45-8-10:20 Thu 12:55-3:15-5:45-8-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Madagascar (G) Sat 11
The Pirates! Band of Misfits (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:35 No Passes Mon 12:55 No Passes Tue 12:35 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:55
The Pirates! Band of Misfits 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 3-5:15-7:35-9:45
Safe (14A) Fri-Sun 1:05-3:20-5:50-8:10-10:40 Mon 1:05-3:15-5:50-8:10-10:35 Tue 1:05-3:20-5:50-8:10-10:40 Wed-Thu 1:05-3:15-5:50-8:10-10:35
Tezz (STC) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-6:35-9:15
Titanic 3D (14A) Fri-Thu 1-5-9
Vicky Donor (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:05-9:50
WWE Extreme Rules - 2012 (STC) Sun 5

Studio 12 Guildford

15051-101st Ave, Surrey, 604-581-1176

21 Jump Street (14A) , Fri 4:20-7:10-9:45 , Sat-Sun 1:20-4:20-7:10-9:45 , Mon 5:45-8:30 , Tue 4:20-7:10-9:45 , Wed-Thu 5:45-8:30
American Reunion (18A) , Fri 4:35-7:15-9:55 , Sat-Sun 1:25-4:35-7:15-9:55 , Mon 6-8:45 , Tue 4:35-7:15-9:55 , Wed-Thu 6-8:45
The Cabin in the Woods (18A) , Fri 4:10-7:30-9:50 , Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-7:30-9:50 , Mon 5:55-8:40 , Tue 4:10-7:30-9:50 , Wed-Thu 5:55-8:40
Chimpanzee (G) , Fri 3:20-6:45-9 , Sat-Sun 12:40-3:20-6:45-9 , Mon 5:20-7:50 , Tue 3:20-6:45-9 , Wed-Thu 5:20-7:50
The Five-Year Engagement (14A) , Fri 3:50-6:50-9:40 , Sat-Sun 1-3:50-6:50-9:40 , Mon 5:30-8:15 , Tue 3:50-6:50-9:40 , Wed-Thu 5:30-8:15
The Hunger Games (PG) , Fri 4-6:25-9:35 , Sat-Sun 12:35-4-6:25-9:35 , Mon 5:10-8:20 , Tue 4-6:25-9:35 , Wed-Thu 5:10-8:20
The Lucky One (PG) , Fri 3:40-6:40-9:25 , Sat-Sun 1:10-3:40-6:40-9:25 , Mon 5:25-8 , Tue 3:40-6:40-9:25 , Wed-Thu 5:25-8
The Pirates! Band of Misfits (G) , Fri-Sun 3:30-6:30-9:10 , Mon 5:15-7:55 , Tue 3:30-6:30-9:10 , Wed-Thu 5:15-7:55
The Pirates! Band of Misfits 3D (G) , Digital Presentation Sat-Sun 12:50
The Raven (18A) , Fri 4:30-7:20-10 , Sat-Sun 1:35-4:30-7:20-10 , Mon 5:50-8:35 , Tue 4:30-7:20-10 , Wed-Thu 5:50-8:35
Safe (14A) , Fri 4:15-7-9:30 , Sat-Sun 1:15-4:15-7-9:30 , Mon 5:40-8:25 , Tue 4:15-7-9:30 , Wed-Thu 5:40-8:25
Tezz (STC) , Fri 3:35-6:55-9:45 , Sat-Sun 12:45-3:35-6:55-9:45 , Mon 5-8:10 , Tue 3:35-6:55-9:45 , Wed-Thu 5-8:10
The Three Stooges (PG) , Fri 4:57 , Sat-Sun 12:30-4:57 , Tue 4:57
Wrath of the Titans (14A) , Fri-Sun 6:15-9:15 , Mon 5:35-8:05 , Tue 6:15-9:15 , Wed-Thu 5:35-8:05

Rialto 1732-152nd Street, White Rock, 604-541-9527, criterion-theatres.com

The Five-Year Engagement (14A) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 2-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 7-9:20
The Lucky One (PG) Fri 7:10-9:10 Sat-Sun 2:10-7:10-9:10 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:10
Criterion 4 White Rock
2381 King George Highway,
604-531-7456, criterontheatres.com
The Hunger Games (PG) Fri 7:30 Sat-Sun 2-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30
The Pirates! Band of Misfits (G) Fri 7-8:45 Sat-Sun 2:30-7-8:45 Mon-Thu 7-8:45
The Raven (18A) Fri 7:10-9:15 Sat-Sun 2:10-7:10-9:15 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:15
Safe (14A) Fri 7:20-9:20 Sat-Sun 2:20-7:20-9:20 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:20

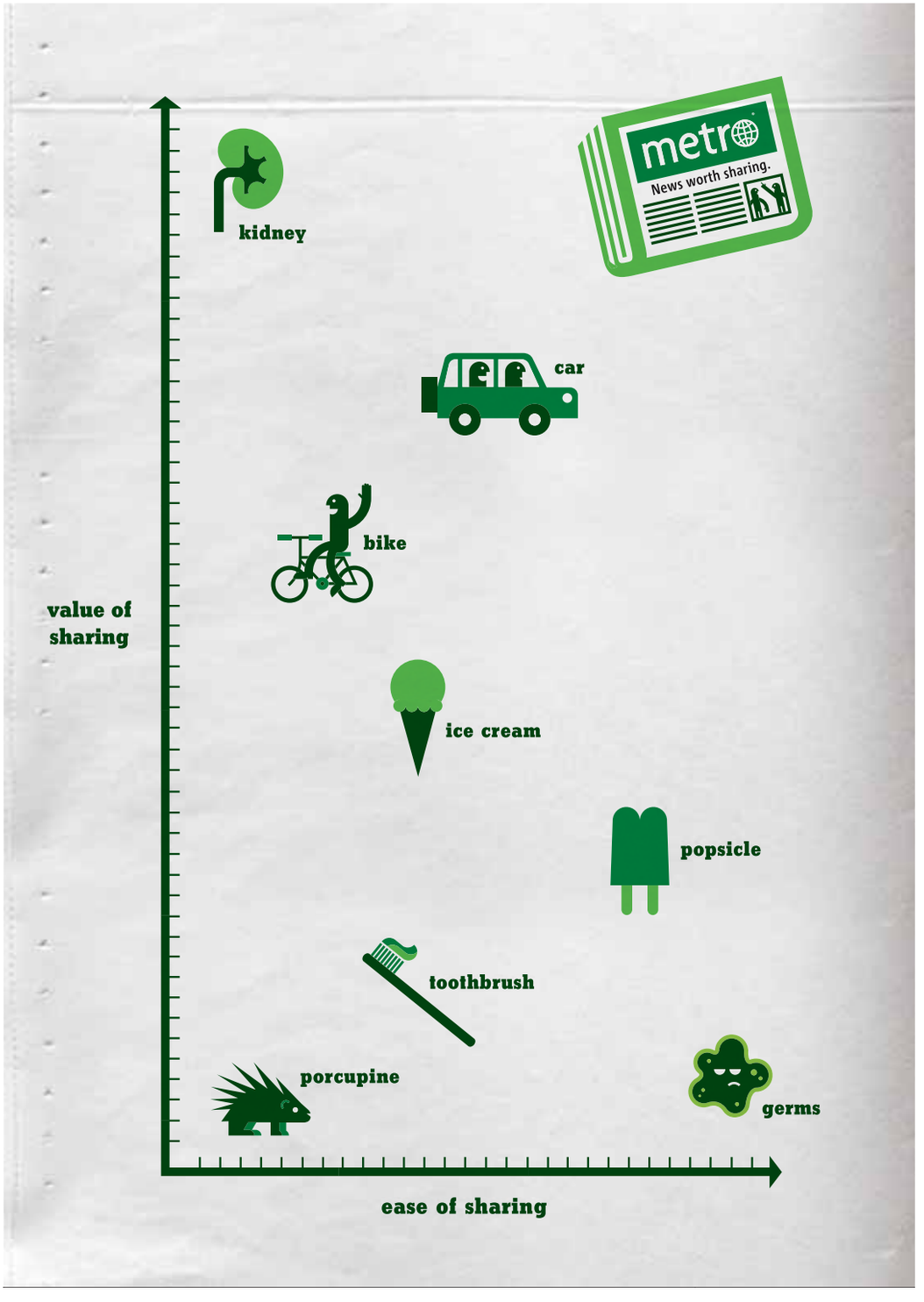
Colossus Langley

20090-91A Ave, Langley, 604-513-8747

21 Jump Street (14A) Fri-Sun 12:15-2:50-5:35-8:15-10:55 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:05-10:05
American Reunion (18A) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:45-5:20-7:55-10:50 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:40-10:25
The Bright Stream: Bolshoi Ballet - Live (STC) Sun 1
The Cabin in the Woods (18A) Fri-Sun 12:55-3:20-5:40-8:10-10:35 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:20-10
Chimpanzee (G) Fri-Sun 1:05-3:05-5:10-7:25-9:35 Mon-Tue 4:30-6:50-9:10 Wed 6:50-9:10 Thu 4:30-6:50-9:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) Fri 1:25 Sat 11-1:25 Sun 1:25
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D (G) Fri-Sun 3:35-5:50-8:05-10:20 Mon-Thu 4:15-7-9:40
The Five-Year Engagement (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 2-4:55-7:50-10:45 No Passes Mon-Tue 4:05-7:15-10:15 No Passes Wed 7:15-10:15 No Passes Thu 4:05-7:15-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 3
Gladiator (18A) Mon 7
The Hunger Games (PG) Fri-Sun 12-3:10-6:30-9:40 Mon-Thu 5-8:15 Fri-Sun 12:50-4:10-7:30-10:40 Mon-Thu 4-7:15-10:30
Lockout (14A) Fri-Sun 7:55-10:25 Mon-Thu 7:50-10:25
The Lucky One (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:45 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:10-9:50
Madagascar (G) Sat 11
Marvel's the Avengers 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 12:01
Marvel's the Avengers: An IMAX 3D Experience (STC) No Passes Thu 12:01
Mirror Mirror (PG) Fri-Sun 12:05-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:20 Mon-Thu 4:05-6:55-9:45
The Pirates! Band of Misfits (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:15-2:30-4:45 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:20
The Pirates! Band of Misfits 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:40-3-5:15-7:30-9:45 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:50-7:30-9:45
The Raven (18A) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:45-5:20-8-10:40 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:25-10:20
Safe (14A) Fri-Sun 1-3:20-5:45-8:10-10:35 Mon-Thu 4:55-7:35-10:10
Think Like a Man (PG) Fri-Sun 2:05-4:50-7:35-10:25 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:10-10:20
The Three Stooges (PG) Fri-Sat 1:15-3:40-6-8:20-10:30 Sun 8:30-10:45 Mon 4:15-10:30 Tue-Thu 4:15-7-9:35
Titanic 3D (14A) Fri-Sun 12:45-4:45-8:45 Mon-Thu 4:45-8:45
Titanic: An IMAX 3D Experience (14A) Fri-Sun 12-4-8 Mon-Thu 4-8
Wrath of the Titans (14A) Fri-Sun 12:05-2:35-5:15-7:50-10:30 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:30-9:55
WWE Extreme Rules - 2012 (STC) Sun 5

Twilight Drive-In 260th Street & Fraser Highway, Langley, 604-856-5063

The Cabin in the Woods (18A) Fri-Sat 11:15 Sun-Wed 8:45
Haywire (PG) Fri-Sat 1
The Hunger Games (PG) Fri-Sat 8:45 Sun-Wed 10:30
John Carter (PG) Thu 9:15
Marvel's the Avengers (STC) Thu 11:59



Is Fox a mother-to-be?

A month after pregnancy rumours last surfaced, a source is now insisting to E! News that Megan Fox is expecting.

It would be the first child for the 25-year-old actress, though she's also stepmother to husband Brian Austin Green's 10-year-old son, Kassius. Parenthood is definitely a topic Fox hasn't been shy about: "I want at least two, probably three kids," she recently told Cosmopolitan magazine.

"I've always been maternal."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Spears gives up rights to dad and fiancé

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

In a sad state of affairs — for Britney Spears, at least — a Los Angeles court has approved a request to add fiancé Jason Trawick as a co-conservator in charge of her finances and decisions, according to TMZ.

Trawick, along with Spears' father, Jamie Spears, will be responsible for all decisions pertaining to the pop star's personal life. Spears has been under the conservatorship since 2008. It was originally reported that her father had requested Trawick be added, but it turns out it was the singer herself.

A lawyer for her father says her client is "thrilled" with the addition.

"It's all in the family."

Shudder. Look, it's apparent that Spears is still kind of a sick puppy and needs the guidance to make sure she doesn't have another spectacular flame-out during which she shaves her head and starts smashing cars with an umbrella and/or loses all of her money to skanky back-up dancers.

But still: Doesn't seeing a successful 30-year-old woman give up her rights to her father and soon-to-be husband feel like some medieval-level-ish?

Jennifer Aniston ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Please don't ask Jen about her ex-husband's engagement

This may not come as the biggest surprise, but Jennifer Aniston doesn't really want to talk about Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie's engagement, according to Us Weekly.

"She hates it being brought up because she doesn't really care," a source says. "She feels Angelina can have him. She just wants to move on." Aside from the fact that it's been seven years since Pitt split with her and took up with Jolie, Aniston has moved on herself with boyfriend Justin Theroux.

"Jen's totally happy with Justin," says the source. "That's all in the past."

The best promotional video ever?

Just when you thought Toddlers and Tiaras couldn't get more disturbing: It looks like a certain five-year-old star of the reality show has it in for Justin Bieber.

In a promotional video for the cable TV series, young pageant contestant Bridgett says she wants to be an exterminator when she grows up, but her list of targets is troubling: "I like to kill the worms. I like to kill grasshoppers. I like to kill bees," Bridgett explains.

"I like to kill Justin Bieber."

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Principal Investigator: Dr.Vincent Ho

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IN SELECT THEATRES MAY 11TH

Liquid Assets

Resurrecting Down Under flavours

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
peterrockwell@eastlink.ca

In what seems like a month of celebrity deaths, it's sad that a member of one of my favourite '80s bands went to the great beyond nearly unnoticed.

That got me thinking about wine.

Greg Ham was the sax player for Down Under's Men At Work. A quintessential new wave group, it hit the big time then crashed and burned — much like the Aussie wine industry.

Australian wine was all that and more pre-21st century, but as wineries started chasing the same flavour profile, the liquid homogeny started to bore consumers.

Thankfully, an ever growing crop of interesting new producers have emerged from Australia. Many are taking advantage of the growing popularity of groovy grape blends and old school label graphics.

Gotham Wines' The Wine Men Of Gotham 2008 Grenache Shiraz ($13.99 - $14.99) has a throwback flavour reminiscent of the deep, dark Men At Work-era Aussie reds.

Though the mix of grenache and shiraz is classic French Rhone Valley, the two grapes combine with harmony in a warmer climate and the concentrated berry goodness tastes as lip-smacking on its own as it does with grilled meats from the barbie. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

This recipe serves six. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lip-smacking, slow-cooked comfort food

Balsamic Braised Short Ribs. The deep flavoured sauce and ribs are perfect over mashed potatoes

Short ribs are the ideal cut of meat to be braised. They have quite a bit of marbling and can be tough if not properly cooked. You can get short ribs off the bone, but for the best flavour, opt for on-the-bone.

1. In heavy-bottomed pot, heat oil over medium heat. Working in batches, sear short ribs for 4 mins. on each side or until well browned; transfer to a plate.

2. Add leeks, onions, carrots, celery and garlic; cook, stirring occasionally, 15 mins. or until well browned. Add tomato paste, salt, red pepper flakes, and black pepper; cook 7 mins. or until tomato paste turns a brick reddish-brown colour.

3. Add vinegar, sugar, rosemary and mustard. Scrape up any browned bits from bottom of pot. Return short ribs to pot, then add beef stock. Bring mix to low simmer and cover. Pot can be left on stovetop on low heat or placed in a 160 C (325 F) oven for 2 hours or until ribs tender when pierced.

4. Carefully transfer meat a platter. Cover with foil and a couple of kitchen towels to keep warm. Using slotted spoon, remove and discard solids from liquid. Bring liquid to a boil on stovetop and cook until reduced to 250 ml (1 cup). Drizzle glaze over short ribs and serve.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS, PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)

Ingredients

- 15 ml (1 tbsp) canola oil
- 6 bone-in short ribs
- 2 each leeks (white parts only, sliced), onions (sliced), carrots (peeled and cut into pieces), stalks celery (cut into pieces), 2 cloves garlic (chopped)
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) tomato paste
- 5 ml (1 tsp) salt
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) red pepper flakes
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) black pepper
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) balsamic vinegar
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) packed brown sugar
- 3 sprigs fresh rosemary
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) Dijon mustard
- 1 l (4 cups) unsalted beef stock

3 LIFE

Superfood

Persimmon

No, it's not a tomato but a persimmon. This bright orange fruit has zero fat and is high in carbs and natural sugars. It's high in fibre and Vitamin A as well.

A recent Japanese study showed that persimmon peel contained the phytochemical proanthcyanidin, thought to protect cells against oxidative damage associated with skin ageing.

ROMINA MCGUINESS/ METRO WORLD NEWS

On the web

Ellen DeGeneres says vegan diet wasn't always easy but she's glad she made the change

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4

SPORTS

Quoted

"Going 7-59 like we did is not what we planned on doing. This doesn't sit very well with me. These last 10 games, we've really tried to get after it, compete and not get that record. It just didn't happen for us. We just didn't have enough. We couldn't come up with the plays.

Charlotte Bobcats guard Gerald Henderson, whose team completed the worst season in NBA history on Thursday night with a 104-84 loss to the New York Knicks. Henderson had 21 points for the Bobcats, whose 23rd consecutive loss left them with a winning percentage of .106 (7-59) in the lockout-shortened season. The record was set 39 years ago, when the 1972-73 Philadelphia 76ers finished 9-73 (.110) in a full regular season.

On the web

The Phoenix Suns are facing a future without Steve Nash. With the Suns in the midst of a rebuild and Nash set to become a free agent, it could be time for the two-time MVP to finally move on. Scan the code for the story.

Dan Girardi scores the series-winning goal on Senators goalie Craig Anderson during the second period of Game 7 in New York on Thursday.
JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Senators' season ends in New York

NHL. Rangers knock out Ottawa in Game 7, advance to meet Capitals in 2nd round

Game 7

2	1
Rangers	Senators

The New York Rangers are likely more relieved than ecstatic now that they have outlasted the pesky Ottawa Senators.

It wasn't easy, and after a home loss in Game 5, it almost wasn't likely. But the Eastern Conference's top-seeded team gutted out a big road win and then made it count Thursday night when the Rangers held off the Senators 2-1 in Game 7 to advance to the second round.

"You don't want to relax too much," said forward Derek Stepan, who had three points in the Rangers' Game 6 win and then helped set up the opening goal in the clincher. "We have a big round ahead of us and we have to make sure we stay focused and keep that emotion high."

Defencemen Marc Staal and Dan Girardi scored 4:18 apart in the second period, Henrik Lundqvist made 26 saves and the Rangers eliminated the eighth-seeded Senators — completing a rally from a 3-2 hole after losing Game 5.

"We were talking about it in Ottawa that if we could bring it back here, the fans would be behind us," Girardi said. "The way we play all year got us ready for games like this. We came with a great effort (in Ottawa) and another one tonight."

Staal broke the scoreless deadlock, and Girardi gave the Rangers a 2-0 lead with his first career NHL playoff goal. Lundqvist allowed Daniel Alfredsson's power-play goal in the second but stood tall the rest of the way to send the Rangers into a second-round matchup with the seventh-seeded Washington Capitals.

The Rangers hadn't hosted a Game 7 since their Stanley Cup victory over Vancouver in 1994, but they stayed perfect at home in deciding games — winning their fourth. New York is 4-5 overall in Game 7, and the Senators dropped to 0-5.

"We knew they were going to come out strong," said Senators goalie Craig Anderson, who made 27 saves. "I just wanted to make sure that I gave my team an opportunity to win the hockey game — make the next save for the guys.

"They had their fans. They had lots of energy."

Lundqvist withstood tons of pressure from the Senators, who spent most of the closing five minutes in the Rangers' end. The win wasn't secure until Sergei Gonchar tripped Carl Hagelin as he skated toward the empty net with 36.2 seconds remaining.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tennis

Raonic's clay game 'progressing well'

Canadian Milos Raonic dominated sixth-seeded Spaniard Nicolas Almagro 6-3, 6-3 Thursday to reach the quarter-finals of the Barcelona Open.

The 11th seed from Thornhill, Ont., needed just 67 minutes to advance comfortably on Centre Court at the Real Club de Tenis against the clay specialist.

"This was probably my best win on clay," said Raonic. "There's been a big change for me this week. I'm very proud of my play today, and I'm progressing well."

Raonic will face No. 2 seed Andy Murray on Friday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Milos Raonic reacts after Thursday's win.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Chara, Karlsson and Weber in Norris running

Zdeno Chara of the Boston Bruins, Erik Karlsson of the Ottawa Senators and Shea Weber of the Nashville Predators are the finalists for the Norris Trophy for the NHL's best defenceman.

The winner will be announced June 20 at the NHL awards ceremony in Las Vegas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

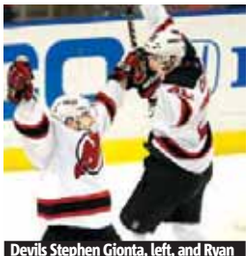
NHL. Devils advance with overtime win in Florida

Adam Henrique scored his second goal of the game at 3:47 of the second overtime, and the New Jersey Devils beat the Florida Panthers 3-2 in Game 7 early Friday to advance to second round of the Eastern Conference playoffs.

The Devils wasted a 2-0 lead in the third period, then recovered and earned a matchup with Philadelphia in the East semifinals. Stephen Gionta also scored in regulation for New Jersey, which won a series for the first time since 2007.

Martin Brodeur made 43 saves for the Devils in a game that ended on April 27 — the 20th anniversary of Brodeur's first playoff appearance for New Jersey.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Devils Stephen Gionta, left, and Ryan Carter celebrate Thursday in Sunrise, Fla. J PAT CARTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Raptors finish season with win

The Toronto Raptors wrapped up another campaign to forget with a victory on Thursday — something they couldn't get nearly enough of when it mattered this season.

Ben Uzoh recorded Toronto's first triple-double in 11 years in the battle between bench players, with 12 points, 11 rebounds and 12 assists to lead the Raptors to a 98-67 win over the New Jersey Nets. Now, the Raptors head into the off-season to be playoff spectators for the fourth year in a row.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL. Leafs on Lu's list of trade destinations: TSN

Cue the Roberto Luongo rumours.

The Vancouver Canucks goalie will include the Toronto Maple Leafs on a list of teams he would accept a trade to, says TSN, citing sources.

Luongo has a no-trade clause in his contract but said this week he wouldn't block a trade if the Canucks wanted to move him.

His backup, Cory Schneider, won the top job in the playoffs.

Luongo has strong links to the Leaf front office. He is a protegé of goalie coach Francois Allaire. And it was Leafs assistant GM Dave Nonis who brought Luongo to Vancouver in a trade with Florida when Nonis was GM of the Canucks.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"I wouldn't blame Luongo if he wants out of VAN. He's been the biggest scapegoat of all time.... If I were Canucks I would be careful about trading him, though."

Don Cherry, who took to Twitter in support of Roberto Luongo on Thursday.

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Warmer markets find hockey cool again

NHL. New batch of teams vying for Stanley Cup after powerhouses make early exits

Coyotes goaltender Mike Smith surveys the action during Game 2 of Phoenix's first-round series against Chicago in Glendale, Ariz. CHRISTIAN PETERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

The Phoenix Coyotes roused a dormant fan base with an energetic season-ending burst that carried into the playoffs.

Lunch-pail likable and brilliantly resilient, they have made hockey cool in the desert again and given the playoffs a distinctive new vibe by reaching the second round for the first time in a quarter century.

And they're not alone.

After years of the same handful of teams competing for the cup, Lord Stanley's mug has some new pursuers.

Red Wings, Canucks, Blackhawks, Bruins — they're all gone. In their place, still in the chase, are the Coyotes, Predators, Kings and Blues.

Parity has taken over in the NHL playoffs, raising the possibility that the Stanley Cup could end up in a place like Nashville or Glendale, Ariz.

"You look at who's out: Detroit, San Jose and on and on," Coyotes general manager Don Maloney said. "And look at Chicago. That's a team that could easily be playing in the finals. That's how tight things are."

Prior to the 2004-05 lockout, the NHL had what felt like an inevitable march towards glory.

From the '90s forward, teams like Pittsburgh, Detroit, New Jersey and Colorado took turns trading the cup, combining for nine titles in a 13-year span. Before that was the Great One's reign in Edmonton, the New York Islanders' dominance and the Montreal monster that seemed to exist since the creation of the NHL.

Tampa Bay broke up the monopoly in 2004 and the change continued after the players returned and the salary cap was put in place, levelling the rink so small-market teams had a chance.

Since the lockout, there have been six different champions, though there still were intriguing matchups. A pair of Detroit-Pittsburgh finals, Chicago's drought-ending victory over the similarly long-suffering Flyers and last year's don't-change-the-channel matchup between Boston and Vancouver. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"You know, the Detroits and the Vancouvers, they're gone now, and Pittsburgh, so everybody's going to think, 'This is the chance of a lifetime.'"

Ken Hitchcock, St. Louis Blues head coach

Jays swept away by Orioles

Toronto Blue Jays shortstop Yunel Escobar throws to first behind a kneeling Brett Lawrie after stopping a ground ball by the Orioles' Adam Jones in the sixth inning in Baltimore on Thursday night. Two innings later Jones led off the inning with a tiebreaking homer, and the Baltimore Orioles beat the Toronto Blue Jays 5-2 to complete a three-game sweep with their fourth straight victory. Jones ripped the first pitch from Casey Janssen (1-1) into the first row of the left-field stands, barely eluding the leap of Eric Thames. It was his sixth homer of the season. PATRICK SEMANSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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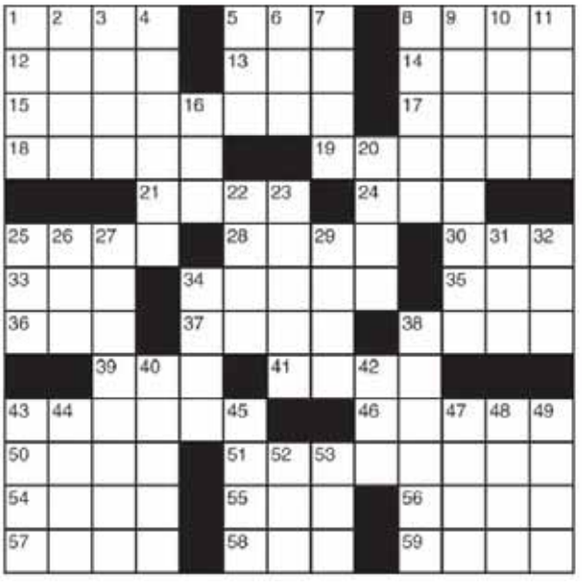
Crossword

Across

1 Approached the plate
5 Erstwhile acorn
8 Easy marks
12 Actress Spelling
13 Evening hour in old Rome
14 Fall hard
15 Most importantly
17 "Three Sisters" sister
18 Huge goof
19 Tortilla chips
21 Obi
24 Ring decision
25 Castle protection
28 Mexican entree
30 Submachine gun
33 Night bird
34 Antitoxin
35 Disencumber
36 Grown-up elver
37 Renders speechless
38 Venomous vipers
39 Bleacher denizen
41 Unwanted e-mail
43 Jagger's band
46 Undergo catharsis
50 Hoodlum
51 Pop song of 1952
54 Dumbo's "wings"
55 Chic no longer
56 Greek vowels
57 Atomizer squirt
58 Teensy
59 Arp's art

Down

1 Impale
2 Timber wolf
3 Unyielding
4 Strip
5 Eggs
6 Have a bug
7 Furnace of a sort
8 Enterprise officer
9 A very late time
10 Comic-strip possum
11 Resorts international?
16 Historic period
20 Fermi's bit
22 Leftovers recipe
23 Cottontails
25 Curly's brother
26 Haven't paid yet
27 Card game for crawlers?
29 Point
31 Energy
32 Driver's lic. et al.
34 Logical
38 Entertained
40 Apprehension
42 Suitable
43 Goblet feature
44 Siamese
45 Pack away
47— -tat-tat
48 Pleased
49 "Born Free" lioness
52 Shading
53 Noshed on



Sudoku

	8						5	
		4		8		6		
9	7						2	1
		8	9	2	1	3		
		1	4	3	6	9		
5	1						4	6
		6		7		5		
	2						8	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

5	1	9	4	2	6	8	7	3
3	2	4	7	1	8	6	9	5
8	7	6	3	9	5	1	2	4
7	6	5	9	8	3	4	1	2
2	3	8	5	4	1	7	6	9
4	9	1	6	7	2	3	5	8
9	8	2	1	6	4	5	3	7
6	4	3	2	5	7	9	8	1
1	5	7	8	3	9	2	4	6

Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

How to play

This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

XZISBA PDLSI HTNUSH TZPSBAN, PDL PDSINPM EVSLBN VSYLX PT UEYL E NPTO GM PDL NOEHL GEI.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN PEOPLE ARE CURSING ON A ROLLER COASTER, COULD YOU SAY THEY'RE SWEARING UP AND DOWN?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals E

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

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Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. Anyone who thinks they can blackmail you in any way, shape or form is in for a surprise today.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. You may have to tread on toes today but that's OK because you have serious things to take care of and you don't have time for pleasantries.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. You are in a playful mood at the moment and simply cannot be bothered with people whose outlook on life is negative

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. You may feel that someone has let you down, but it's not the end of the world, so snap out of it.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. You have a knack of being able to make other people believe you. Use that talent to your advantage.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. It's not true that you don't have as much talent as your rivals, so stop tormenting yourself.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. You can probably bluff your way out of trouble quite easily today but don't think you can go down this route indefinitely.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. Don't push yourself too hard over the next two or three days because the serious stuff can quite safely be left until Monday morning.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. You won't be in a very chatty mood today, not at all your usual happy-go-lucky Sagittarian self.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. It seems you have come to the conclusion that certain issues are not worth getting worked up about.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. Don't give up on something just because it turns out to be harder than you expected.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. It's a good time to approach people in positions of authority. Show them that you are serious about moving up in the world they will help you in every way they can. SALLY BROMPTON

Caption Contest

"You are getting sleeeeeeepy"
Danille

MICHAEL PROBST/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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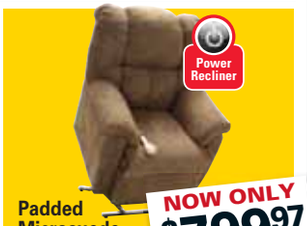

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INCLUDES accom on the shores of Harrison Lake. **ADD** 2-day car rental with unlimited mileage from $33 per day.

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INCLUDES accom on the Inner Harbour over the May Long Weekend. **ADD** Butchart Gardens from $33.

Sunshine Coast
2 Nights + Tour — from $375 taxes & fees included
INCLUDES cliff-side accom over the May Long Weekend and 3-hour guided kayaking on the Sechelt Inlet.

USA

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+ taxes & fees $46
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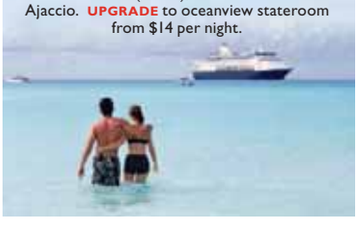
+ taxes & fees USD $60
CRUISE roundtrip Malaga and visit Valencia, Civitavecchia (Rome), Florence/Pisa and Ajaccio. **UPGRADE** to oceanview stateroom from $14 per night.



Mexican Riviera
7-Night Cruise — from USD $359 + taxes & fees USD $56
CRUISE roundtrip Los Angeles and visit Cabo San Lucas (overnight) and Puerto Vallarta. **UPGRADE** to oceanview stateroom from $20 per night.

Pacific Coastal
5-Night Cruise — from USD $399 + taxes & fees USD $107
CRUISE San Diego to Vancouver and visit San Francisco and Victoria. **UPGRADE** to oceanview stateroom from $20 per night.

Alaska 7-Night Cruise — from USD $449 + taxes & fees USD $146
CRUISE Seward to Vancouver and visit Hubbard Glacier (cruising), Juneau, Skagway, Icy Strait, Ketchikan and Inside Passage (cruising). **UPGRADE** to oceanview stateroom from $21 per night.

Vacations

Paris & London
Air + 7 Nights
from **$749**
+ taxes & fees $646
INCLUDES all airfare, 3 nights central Paris accom and 4 nights central London accom. **ADD** Illuminations of Paris tour from $34.

Bangkok Air + 7 Nights — from $909 + taxes & fees $450
INCLUDES accom near Pratunam Market. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $11 per night. **ADD** floating markets tour from $35.

Rio de Janeiro
Air + 7 Nights — from $1385 + taxes & fees $430
INCLUDES accom near the beach. **ADD** city tour and Sugarloaf Mountain from $109.

Singapore Air + 8 Nights — from $1409 + taxes & fees $505
INCLUDES central accom. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $17 per night. **ADD** night safari from $52.

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*Conditions apply. Ex: Vancouver. *Ex Bellingham. Air only prices are per person for return travel unless otherwise stated. Package, cruise, tour, rail & hotel prices are per person, based on double occupancy for total length of stay unless otherwise stated. All-inclusive vacations include air. Prices are for select departure dates and are accurate and subject to availability at advertising deadline, errors and omissions excepted, and subject to change. Taxes & fees include transportation related fees, GST/HST and fuel supplements and are approximate and subject to change. ◊Price per person based on quad occupancy (2 adults & 2 children ages 2-17). †We will beat any written quoted airfare by $1 and give you a $20 voucher for future travel. "Fly Free" offer applies only where all "Lowest Airfare Guarantee" criteria are met but Flight Centre does not beat quoted price. Additional important conditions apply. For full terms and conditions visit www.flightcentre.ca/lowestairfareguarantee-flyfree. BC REG: #H02790*